



Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 8, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom

Call to order 2:00 pm

Present: Don Graves, President; Wendy Graves, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Mary Barrett, Margie Gibson, Rick Lass, Beth Leuck, Elroy Limmer; invited: Dave Becker

Minutes: Minutes from the Board meeting on September 20, 2022, were approved.

Board Reports:

President's Report: Don said that he had invited Treasurer-Elect Dave Becker to participate in the meeting. As Board members knew, he and Wendy would be serving as joint President of the Native Plant Society in New Mexico beginning January 1st, 2023, but he would continue to be on the GNPS Board as Past President. He had designed the agenda to clear up as many issues as possible.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy reported that the Gila Native Plant Society account as of 12/1/2022 had a calculated balance of \$17,128.12, including a \$200 payment not yet cleared. The Silva Creek Garden Account as of 12/1/2022 had a balance of \$23,963.40, of which \$1,119.93 related to the Healing Garden.

Secretary's Report: Betty reported that, according to the results of the election held at the general membership meeting on November 18, 2022, the officers of the Gila Native Plant Society effective January 1, 2023, for a term of two years, would be as follows:

President: Margie Gibson (replacing Donald Graves)

Vice-President: Mary Barrett (filling a vacant post; the previous Vice-President was William Norris)

Treasurer: David Becker (replacing Wendy Graves)

Secretary: Betty Spence (continuing for another term)

Effective January 1, 2023, Margie Gibson and David Becker are the authorized signatories for GNPS financial matters, and should be added as signatories to GNPS accounts, including GNPS accounts at 1st New Mexico Bank and Edward Jones. Donald Graves and Wendy Graves should be removed as signatories to GNPS accounts, including GNPS accounts at 1st New Mexico Bank and Edward Jones.

Also at that meeting, the amended Bylaws as attached were adopted.

SCBG Steering Committee Board Report: : In her capacity as the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Facilitator, Wendy submitted the following report in writing:

Since the board met last on September 20, 2022, the Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG) Steering Committee has met four times, on September 26, October 19, November 9, and November 30, and managed many weekend activities over the November 12-13 weekend while our Landscape Architect Graduate Student, Ashley Pedersen, was visiting Silver City. These meetings were spent planning for Ashley's visit, discussing planning with Stream Dynamics for the Virginia St. curb project and working on a draft contract with Stream Dynamics regarding the implementation phase of the work planned for the garden's north end and finally, working on a new policy that clarifies the Roles, Responsibilities, and memberships of the Garden Management Team and the SCBG Steering Committee.

We also worked intensely, by email, between November 13 and November 22 to discuss the mechanics and distribution lists for the survey sent out to gather public input regarding the SCBG. The survey is now out, through a variety of distribution lists and will hopefully provide useful information.

With regards to the motion made to bring Ashley Pedersen here to see the garden and to gather input regarding the garden, we had secured a budget of \$1,500.00. The total spent on this was \$1,321.23, which includes a \$40 donation for the use of The Commons for the potluck on the 13th.

At the November 30th meeting we also worked out how SCBG Steering Committee facilitation and note-taking will be handled in 2023, as Wendy Graves will no longer be doing these two tasks. Marty Eberhardt will take over facilitation of the group and Angela Flanders will take notes for the group. She will require access to the Zoom account so that she can record the meetings and write notes after the meetings, in order to be able to participate in the meetings fully.

Old Business:

Holiday Gathering: Don reminded the Board that The Commons had been rented for the GNPS Holiday Gathering on Sunday, December 11th. Doors would open at 11 am; set-up would be easy, because the tables would already be in the hall. Eating could start at noon. Elroy would provide his usual roast pork, and Curtis Shimp would bring the holiday tablecloths. He would make a few remarks as outgoing President and turn it over to Margie as President-Elect.

Replacement of a Board Member at Large: Don recalled that Susan Thompson had withdrawn as a Board Member at Large during the course of 2021; like the other Board Members at Large,

her term was to run to the end of 2023. It was a good idea to keep up the numbers of Board members. Betty recalled that after December 31, 2022, Wendy would no longer be on the Board as Treasurer and would be eligible to replace Susan as Board Member at Large. Wendy agreed to serve.

Motion: The Board approved the nomination of Wendy Graves to replace Susan Thompson from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

It was also pointed out that as of January 1st there would be two other vacancies in the numbers of Board Members at Large through 2023, since Margie and Mary would be on the Board as officers. Don would replace Elroy on the Board as Past President, and Elroy might be willing to serve as a Board Member at Large. Margie as new President could seek out candidates to be nominated to fill those vacancies in accordance with Article VIII.b of the amended Bylaws.

Program Committee: Don recalled that the Board has seen the advisability of setting up a program committee, since under the amended Bylaws the Vice-President was not solely responsible for programs. Mary, as Vice-President after Jan. 1st, would be on the committee in accordance with the Bylaws. He himself was willing to serve. Betty said that as Publicity Coordinator that it would be useful for her to be on the program committee to find out what needed to be publicized to the membership and the public, and she could help with some of the secretarial functions.

Don recalled that the programs had already been set up for winter/spring 2023. Since evening meetings were not held from June through September, ideas were just needed for October and November.

Field Trip Committee: Similarly, since there was not a designated field trip coordinator, it would be useful to have a field trip committee. Don said that he was willing to serve. He also thought of asking Andrew Tree, a GNPS member who was an avid photographer and went about photographing native plants in our locale. Margie said that she had asked Bill Norris about recruiting a student to help lead field trips.

New Business:

Request from SCBG Steering Committee regarding plants for the north end habitat thicket: Wendy drew attention to the two documents sent prior to the meeting: "Principles for Creating Effective Bird Habitat" and "Plant order for SCBG habitat thicket." She recalled that the north end plan regarding swales and curbs on State Street and the creation of a wildlife thicket had been approved by the Board by exchange of email on October 18-20, 2022. Susan Campbell, author of the first document, had been working with Steve Plath of Watershed Partners in Safford to develop a list of suitable plants for the wildlife thicket. She was asking the Board to approve the funds to purchase the plants for a total of \$821.50.

Beth and Mary raised questions about the timing of the delivery of the plants. The plant order mentioned the delivery of the *Asclepias* liners in Feb/March and pots of the remaining plants in June/July 2023; surely the work by Stream Dynamics would have to be finished first. How long could the plants be safely kept out of the ground without deteriorating? Don pointed out that Watershed Partners was a very large nursery and could probably hold plants longer than estimated. Moreover, Margie noted that Susan Campbell had offered to hold, care for and if necessary repot plants until they could be put in the ground. Wendy said that the SCBG Steering Committee was working on scheduling implementation of the Stream Dynamics contract.

Rick asked whether creation of the wildlife habitat would require removal of the Siberian elms. He was opposed in principle to the removal of large healthy trees even if not native. The document "Principles for Creating Effective Bird Habitat" mentioned that one of the first areas for action of the project would be thinning the elms. That would be an expensive proposition. And was reduction of shade essential for the plants on the order list? Mary pointed out that the trees were on the north side of the garden, and some shade might help the new plants. It was mentioned that if the person used in the past were to be asked to prune in the future, he was a professional and would know how to be careful.

Motion: The Board approved the expenditure of \$821.50 for the purchase of plants for the wildlife thicket on the north end of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.

Program Venue Discussion: The two venue options for GNPS evening programs were the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship hall or a room at Western New Mexico University. The October meeting at the UUFSC hall had had audio problems with the Zoom link. However, Wendy believed that she had solved that problem with a new cable. Margie said that Bill Norris had offered to arrange for the use of Room 111 in Harlan Hall on the WNMU campus for GNPS evening meetings.

A question was raised about the cost. Margie said that WNMU would charge \$54 per meeting. GNPS had been making a donation to UUFSC for the use of their hall, and the cost difference would not be great.

Questions were raised about the size of the room. Elroy recalled that some years back GNPS had used Room 111, but had then moved to the auditorium in Harlan Hall when attendance grew too large for the classroom; however, since at present many people preferred to attend online, capacity might not be a problem. Don recalled that the UUFSC hall had 50 comfortable seats. Margie noted, however, that they were all on one level, whereas Room 111 had tiered seats. Handicapped access was not a problem.

In terms of the audio system, Beth agreed that the university's new system was a good one, and Margie thought it would be useful to learn it. Don wondered whether it would be necessary for Bill to be there at every meeting. In the past there had been problems getting tech assistance at the university. Would it be possible to use the GNPS Zoom?

With regard to refreshments after the meeting, the UUFSC hall had the advantage of a kitchen and proper eating space. In the past when using Harlan Hall, snacks had been served in the

biology lab, and Don and Beth both agreed that that was a very bad idea. Tables would have to be set up in the hall outside Room 111.

Betty said that one of the advantages of using the university was its central and well-known location. Rick cautioned that it was not a good idea to switch venues too much – a decision should be made. It was agreed that Margie and Dave would meet with Bill Norris and examine these questions.

GNPS/Bat Conservation International Winter Planning: Don reported that BCI was planning more agave planting January 9 to 13, 2023, and had asked for help from GNPS in finding willing landowners. He had lined up landowners in the Mimbres and the Burros, for 90 agaves to be planted in each area.

Donation to the Jack and Martha Carter Foundation: Don and Betty explained that the purpose of the Foundation was to provide grants for worthy projects involving native plants. Wendy suggested that perhaps the Board might want to make a recurring annual donation, but Board members felt that it was better to decide each year whether and how much to give.

Motion: The Board agreed to make a donation of \$1,000 to the Jack and Martha Carter Foundation.

Conservation Committee: Don suggested that GNPS might want to create a conservation committee. The state organization had a conservation committee chaired by Rachel Jankowitz, and part of its mission was advocating for good conservation policies. The state organization needed input from the chapters. For instance, NPSNM had recently sent a letter to the Gila National Forest in support of the removal of unauthorized feral cattle from the Gila Wilderness, and this was done with input from GNPS. Phil Hastings had already agreed to be a member of the GNPS committee.

Dave expressed his willingness to be on the committee. Mary said that such a committee could help GNPS members know what some of the issues were, but perhaps the committee needed a mission statement? Wendy pointed out that the committee needed to align its efforts with the GNPS mission statement.

Facebook Issues: Wendy reported that a problem had arisen because a person had used the message function on our Facebook page, which was not regularly monitored, instead of our email address, which was. Betty explained that when the GNPS Facebook page was set up, there were three people involved, Emily Pollom (the tech person), Les Brandt and herself, but at this point she was the only one left and did not have the tech skills to be comfortable managing it. She had no difficulty posting information about GNPS events, but she needed input from others to keep it interesting.

Mary and Wendy admitted that they did not use Facebook and questioned whether we needed to retain the page, but Dave, Margie and Don pointed out that GNPS had many followers; there were many people who did use Facebook and it was a way of reaching out to them. If it was used as a bulletin board it could be a useful tool.

It was decided that the Facebook page should be maintained, but that Emily Pollom could be asked to turn off the messaging capability. Perhaps new members comfortable with Facebook could be found to take on the responsibility.

GNPS Post Office Box: Wendy reported that the cost of the post office box had increased to \$182. It was agreed that we needed to keep the PO Box. On the application form a physical address was needed; as Treasurer beginning Jan. 1st, Dave's should be used.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Appendix 1: Motions passed by exchange of email since the September 20th meeting

Motion adopted by email exchange on Sept. 29-Oct. 9, 2022

Motion: The GNPS Board accepts the timeline and proposal from Ms Ashley Pedersen to produce a master and interpretive plan for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden at a cost of \$1,500.00.

Explanation: The SCBG Steering Committee proposed hiring a very highly recommended Landscape Architect graduate student to help with the overall design of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Ashley Pedersen was employed by the Tucson Botanical Garden for close to six years, and while there she was involved in both garden design and in educational and interpretation design. Her name was presented to us by the director of the Tucson Botanical Garden, Michelle Conklin, who speaks very highly of her.

Ms. Pedersen expressed interest in our project and proposed that the project be accomplished as an independent study during a short winter term and used toward her Master's Degree requirements at Rhode Island School of Design. The Steering Committee believes her talents and temperament are a good fit for this project, and that by using the independent study we benefit from Ms Pedersen's talents as well as those of her academic advisor, and yet keep the cost as low as could possibly be expected.

Motion adopted by email exchange on October 18-20, 2022

Motion: The GNPS Board accepts the north end plan for water management and the habitat thicket for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.

Explanation: The Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee would like approval of the North End plan for the SCBG as developed by personnel at Stream Dynamics. Included in this plan is a plan for how to channel water more effectively along State St., how to capture some of that water in improved and redesigned swales, and how to control overflow from those two swales. In addition, the Steering Committee wants to use this portion of the garden to establish

a wildlife thicket in the area and a path that encircles the thicket. Exact boundaries of the thicket and exact location of the path will be determined later in consultation with our landscape architect graduate student.