

**South Carolina
Native Plant Society
State Board Retreat-Meeting
January 7, 2007**

The Board of the South Carolina Native Plant Society met at the Conference Room, Congaree National Park starting at 10 AM on January 7, 2007, and adjourning at 2:30 PM.

Attending: Bill Stringer (presiding), Lisa Lord, Ted Thern, Rick Huffman, Colette DeGarady, Tommie Moody, John Brubaker, Harry Davis, Ann Friedel, Wesley Burnett (recording)

1. Minutes of the October, 2006, meeting - Wesley Burnett. Minutes have been approved previously by e-mail through the process established in the October meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2. Treasurer's report - Ted Thern. Thern handed out a summary of the calendar year-end report. Motion to accept was approved.

3. Membership report - Ann Friedel. Friedel reported on the renewal process.

4. Newsletter report - Bill Stringer. Stringer reported that the next edition of the state newsletter is ready to be mailed out. Brubaker asked that portions of the article suggesting that the digging of rhizomes in order to control cogon grass be deleted.

5. Symposium report - Mary Morrison. Stringer reported for Morrison. The agenda program and schedule were presented. Comments should be sent to Morrison as soon as possible.

Questions were raised about how the Symposium will be presented since it is being done in cooperation with other organizations. Further questions were raised about how revenues will be distributed. Stringer asked that any further questions raised about the shared duties be sent to him and he will review the process with Morrison. The Board may need to set policies on cooperative procedures in administration of the Symposium as some time in the future.

6. Issues Committee report - John Brubaker. A written report was submitted by e-mail and is located in the electronic folder containing these minutes. Brubaker asked that action be taken on funding activities requested in his report. No action was taken at this time.

Projects reports

7. Mathews Bay Project - John Brubaker. Written report was sent by e-mail and is contained in the folder of the electronic folder for this meeting. DeGarady suggested that this project should be written up and available as a case study.
8. Station Cove - Rick Huffman: Report on the progress of the work. John Garton is thanked for his role and leadership. The PRT portion of trail mostly complete and will be opened March 3. Signage and barricades remain to be finished. At total of 508 volunteer hours have been expended so far on this project.
9. Privet Control on Turkey Creek. Jan Haldeman has had students working in the area but details are not known at this time.
10. Conestee Nature Park. Huffman reported that the Upstate Chapter has become involved this project and has made a major commitment for 2007. The involvement of the State Board is possible and may become necessary in the future.

11. Membership Policy

Friedel reported that the policy of placing membership renewals on a once per year basis has been implemented and is working well so far. However, a total 113 members were dropped from the active rolls as a result of having not paid dues for a long period of time. Many are deeply involved in SCNPS in numerous ways. The Upstate Chapter is taking steps to contact all members in this category. Other chapters should be informed and may wish to take steps to contact inactive members.

Davis moved and Moody seconded that further to the policies on membership renewals established in the meeting of June 10-11, 2006, there will be a second mailing to those who have not renewed about 15 February and that chapters will be informed of members moved to an inactive list on or about April 1. The chapters may then decide on how to encourage those on the inactive list to become active again. The motion passed.

The problem of how donations are allocated was discussed. Donations should accrue to the State or the chapter depending on the intent of the donor. When donations result from a chapter driven fund raising effort donations accrue to the chapter unless the donor states otherwise. Donations resulting from the State's annual membership renewal drive accrue to the State unless the donor specifies otherwise. In all cases, where a donation includes the member's payment of dues, the dues accrue to the State and are distribution according to policies stated in the Bylaws. Except for specifying the chapter or the State as a beneficiary of a donation, "earmarking" of donations by donors should not be encouraged.

12. Treasury policy and arrangements. Thern reported that:

We are shifting our accounts to First Citizen's Bank. This will allow deposits to be made through any branch in the state.

Depositing surplus funds: There is a savings account and we are investing surplus funds in new and more profitable investments, specifically CD's with short terms of investment. Any more speculative investments will require the approval of the Board

Records – software: Thern reported exploring automated procedures of record keeping and check writing , specifically QuickBooks. After discussion:

Davis moved and Brubaker seconded that the SCNPS purchase QuickBooks Pro and supporting material. The motion passed.

Kinds of reports needed—Thern ask what types of financial reports are needed. Upstate suggested that the reports be arranged by projects such as newsletter, publicity and so forth. Some time and assistance will be needed identify projects and giving them appropriate codes.

Upstate chapter asked that Thern not process any action except that it comes to him through the Upstate Treasurer. Other chapters may establish different methods of forwarding requests for action to Thern.

Credit card acceptance: Davis reported that we have PayPal that can be used for on line payment of dues only. Discussion of whether we want to expand this to included or purchases followed. For the present we will not expand our involvement with PayPal.

Establish sales tax deferral status: Thern is asked to pursue this matter with the SC Department of Revenue.

Thern asked about our continued membership in the South Carolina Association of Non-Profit Associations. Thern was asked to explore this in greater detail particularly with respect to our insurance and other benefits that may accrue.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

13. Reimbursement policy:

Following considerable discussion, De Garady moved and Moody seconded that we reimburse at \$.30/mile for state business when we elect reimburse at all. The motion carried.

Still to be determined are the circumstances under which reimbursement will be approved.

14. Newsletter status: Stringer asked for funding to complete mailing of the January newsletter. The Board asked that Stinger explore the possibility of going to a black-and-white printing of the internal pages. He will prepare new estimates and the board will be asked to approve by e-mail.

15. Matthews Memorial Bay: Huffman moved and Thern seconded that Brubaker is named the chairman of the Matthews Bay Committee. The motion passed.

16. Stringer moved and Davis seconded a motion to allocate \$2000 from the Lisa Matthews Memorial Bay funds to continue operation of Matthews Bay, Jan 1 through June 30, 2007. The motion carried.

17. Brubaker moved and Davis seconded a motion that the Issues Committee be allocated \$750 for the period January 1, 2007, through June 30, 2007 in order to recruit and train issues committee experts in the chapters. The motion carried.

18. Adjourned 2:30.