

**South Carolina
Native Plant Society
State Board Meeting
October 8, 2006**

The Board of the South Carolina Native Plant Society met at the Conference Room, Congaree National Park starting at 10:10 AM on October 8, 2006, adjourning at 3:05 PM, October 8, 2006.

Attending: Bill Stringer (presiding), Rick Huffman, Chuck Everett, Colette DeGarady, Tommie Moody, John Brubaker, Harry Davis, Wesley Burnett (recording)

1. Minutes of the June 10-11, 2006, were approved as distributed.
2. Treasurer's report: Everett reported on the status of the state budget (see attached document). Income to date is at \$4,492, which is on schedule and in line with a budget of \$9300. The treasurer's report was accepted on the presiding officer's motion.
3. Membership report: Friedel (absent) forwarded a report on membership. 523 members are on the roster and 307 are current as of September 2006. A renewal notice will be sent in December and the 123 people whose membership expired prior to January 2006 will be dropped in due course if they do not take steps to reinstate themselves. Stringer reported on the mailing of the newsletter with respect to the non-profit postage status. Brubaker suggested that the Midlands and Piedmont could combine efforts with the Low Country to take advantage of the non-profit postage.
4. Newsletter report: Stringer reported on the printing and distribution of the October Newsletter. A discussion of what to do with leftovers followed. Remainder copies should go to the new members' packets and otherwise be used by the chapters for advertising and new member recruitment.

Total costs for this single issue were \$1645 while the Board had budgeted \$3000 for a single issue in its June meeting. In light of this Brubaker moved and DeGarady seconded that we continue to print and distribute a quarterly newsletter. The motion was approved. Moody then moved and Everett seconded that the January issue could be up to 8 color pages. The motion was approved. The Board agreed that the entire matter of issuing the Newsletter including necessary budget adjustments will be considered after the issuing of the January edition.

5. Symposium Update: Morrison (absent) sent a report on the status of the 2007 Native Plant Symposium. The Board is pleased with progress for the 2007 symposium and compliments Morrison and the chapter for their efforts. In response to Morrison's specific query on funds available for a table display the Board agreed that \$600 is already

available for a table display for the Piedmont Chapter and if there are further needs for the symposium the Board should be consulted. The motion carried.

6. Project Reports

A. Lisa Matthews Bay. John Brubaker reported two major problems—dogs running through the area and availability of volunteers to help with the planting of grass plugs. Otherwise, fire has been very successfully applied. Posting needs to be done. Something has been coming into the bay from Highway 301 and Brubaker believes there is a need to fence the property boundary along that highway. Brubaker reviewed the plants propagated for out-planting. There is a surplus and some would be available for regional plant sales.

Two blocks of adjacent property are (West Triangle and Sand Mine Triangle) important to acquire for future management. Brubaker is working on this with The Nature Conservancy on possible acquisition or control of these tracts.

Burnett moved and Davis seconded that the Board continue to pursue exploring acquisition of the West Triangle and the Sand Mine Triangle. The motion passed.

Everett reported on the soil survey that he has completed. High areas have surprising concentrations of phosphorous (to 97 ppm) to depth. This will affect planting and weed control efforts. Water level monitoring is completed but findings are not yet ready. Costs were reviewed.

Everett reported that completed soil samples indicate phosphate levels are very high in the uplands portion (97 ppm), and the pH was below 5. The water level measurements have been completed. Costs of this work were higher than \$660.00 authorized by the Board, more like \$50 per sample instead of \$10 we had approved for the 66 samples. However, the person doing it with Everett is accepting our previously approved figure. It is thought that some money may be allocated through Plant Earth (a U.N. initiative) next year.

Along Highway 301 about 1500 feet of fence is needed. A regular hog fence or farm fence will be sufficient.

Ideas about how to encourage volunteers to work on this property and others as well were discussed.

B. Station Cove Trail. Huffman reported on progress made on Station Cove. Trail work (about one day) on 800 linear feet has progressed to near completion. Duke Power is thanked for its assistance in moving rocks.

C. Tyger River. Huffman reported on the Tyger River. Survey is done. We are awaiting the report to see what is going to be done with it.

D. Grass Seed Collection. Stringer reported that USFS funds for this year's grass seed collection are in doubt; therefore, there is a chance that there will not be a standard grass seed collection. Consequently, we can cease and desist or we can change our emphasis and do something else. Collection for our own purposes to produce seed for sale or for planting for plugs were discussed at some length. It may also be possible to assist in planting at Lisa Matthews Bay. The Board expressed the mood that some activity in the arena of grass seed collection should be continued irrespective of continued USFS funding.

7. Business procedures

A. Handling motions via e-mail: The secretary is authorized to develop a statement of procedures and methods by which the Board may consider motions by e-mail. In order to achieve this we are going to have to be more responsible with respect to who is on the State Board and who is not since conducting business by e-mail will require that business be conducted on the basis of a majority of the Board not a majority of a quorum. DeGerardy informed the Board that Diane Lauritsen is no longer Low Country Chapter Representative and is to be removed from the Board.

B. Posting of state board minutes on Website: The secretary will circulate by e-mail a draft of the minutes as soon as possible following each board meeting. If no additions or corrections are received within two weeks of this circulation, the secretary will forward the minutes to the Webmaster who will post the minutes on the SCNPS website. In the event of corrections or additions, the secretary will forward the minutes to the Webmaster as soon as problems are resolved but not before the expiration of the original two week waiting period.

C. Handling Issues Statements: The problem of a timely response to opportunities to comment on significant agency actions was discussed. At present, the Issues Committee is undermanned and overworked. Stringer will work with Morrison to establish a "session" on the better use of committee structures at the 2007 Symposium

8. Policy on costs and reimbursement

Purchase of items: This matter was not addressed.

Travel re-imbusement: The problem of how, when and even if we should reimburse participants for travel and other costs associated with SCNPS activities and projects was discussed. The matter is made more complex by the complicated nature of funding, or want thereof, of several of our special projects. A general policy is needed. Burnett will initiate some inquiries into volunteer organizations similar to SCNPS in an attempt to determine if there are any standard practices or if there are any preexisting policies that could inspire a SCNPS policy. The Board agreed that in the meantime, the direct expenditure of \$174.60 was approved for reimbursement to Brubaker for work already completed on projects (upon submission of proper request to treasurer).

10. Chuck Everett received a standing ovation for his years of service to the Board and to the membership in his capacity as Treasurer. A more tangible expression of our gratitude is on the way, but for now the Board wishes to say: Thank you, Chuck Everett, for your friendship and your years of dedicated and efficient work with our treasury.

Adjournment, 3:05 PM.