

**SC Native Plant Society
January 13, 2008 Board Meeting
Congaree NP
Minutes**

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM and new members were introduced. Attending were: Bill Stringer (presiding), Harry Davis, Ron Chicone, Laura Lee Rose, John Brubaker, Colette DeGarady, Lisa Lord, Rick Huffman, Tommie Moody, Ted Thern, Mary Morrison, Gail Clark, and Wesley Burnett (recording).

II. Reports:

A. Action on last meeting minutes: The minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2007, were approved.

B. Treasurer's report: SCNPS 2007-2008 budget and expenses through Jan 11, 2008, the cash reserve balance as of Jan 11, 2008, and the balance sheet as of Jan 10, 2008 were presented by Ted Thern. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made and carried.

C. Membership report: The membership is currently 514. The several chapters will need to take action on non-renewing members. Ann Freidel, membership chairman, has asked to be replaced but has agreed to continue her duties until April. The Board expresses its thanks and appreciation to Ann for her accomplishments in bringing order to the membership records. The skills and characteristics of the membership chairman were discussed, and Bill Stringer will begin a search immediately.

D. Report on Journal of SCNPS: The winter 2008 (V. 2, No. 1) edition was reviewed. Bill Stringer indicated that there is some possibility of getting a new printer who will do the same work at a lower cost.

E. Upcoming Symposium report: In the Upstate Chapter, Eva Pratt is taking responsibility for the Symposium and doing very good job. Part of her objective is to keep the Upstate Board and symposium separate as much as possible to avoid burnout of Board members by finding other members to provide the majority of work for the Symposium. The brochure has been released and the board commented on how attractive it is. There was some discussion of "how to get the word out" to potential participants. The availability of audio-visual support and backup were discussed. Brubaker...complimented Janie Marlow and Eva Pratt on the program and its presentation in the brochures.

F. Chapter reports:

Low Country: Colette DeGarady said the Low Country Chapter is emphasizing education and she reviewed the development of partnerships. The Low Country has established a program of Community Project Grants. In conjunction with the EPPC DeGarady is hoping to establish a Position (3 month duration) to help with statewide

invasive plants data coordination. This will cost \$15000 and the Low Country chapter is putting in \$500. Huffman will make a similar request of the Upstate Chapter. DeGarady is seeking money from a variety of organizations. There will be a plant sale on April 19.

Midlands: Ron Chicone reported establishment of a partnership with Columbia's River Front Park to establish at least 50 rocky shoals spider lily plants. There is also a proposal to do a demonstration garden at the River Front Park, and this will probably cause a need for some funding for signage. Chicone will try to use rescued plants and the intention is to use the flood plain and slope ecotone as the model. Midlands also needs financial help for a display. The policies surrounding financial assistance for displays were reviewed.

Piedmont: A prairie restoration workshop was held in October, 2007 in collaboration with NCNPS and York County Museum. On March 8, 2008, there will be a plant sale, sponsored jointly by the Piedmont Chapter and the South Carolina Native Plant Society. Several workshops are planned to accompany this plant sale.

Upstate Chapter: The Upstate Chapter is experiencing considerable success marketing its activities in the press. Books sales procedures are being revised. Two plant sales per year. The fall, 2007, sale netted \$13,700, and profits are running at about 50% of the net.

G. Project report

Lisa Mathews Memorial Bay: Things are going well "naturally" with the stems of *Oxypholis canby* having gone from 200 to 7000. Other plantings are doing very well despite the drought. There is a need to clear of black cherry sprouts.

A motion was made and carried to spend up to \$1000 from money already allocated for clearing of black cherry.

Station Cove: Trail moving is completed and the new trail is settling in very well. The work has met expectations of FS and State Parks. Kiosks are in the process of being completed.

Conestee report: The Upstate Chapter announced that it is planning a major undertaking with the Conestee Nature Park, a private park on the Reedy River. The lake on the site is a major collection site of heritage toxins from Greenville watershed and is presently owned by a foundation which grew out of activities of the Friends of the Reedy River. There are good prospects for a demonstration garden, greenhouse, plant sale location, and restoration projects including prairie and grass and forbs seed production

Parks Mill: SCNPS recently became aware of a site on Stevens Creek with spider lilies. TNC is currently negotiating for its purchase.

H. Eastern Native Grass Symposium: This will be the sixth such symposium and it will be held from Oct 7-10, 2008 at the Radisson in Columbia. Stringer reviewed planning for this meeting in which the NPS has agreed to provide support, which it is now doing with participation in the planning committee. Participation historically has been around 250-300 but this symposium is being “pitched far and wide.”

I. Issues Committee reports:

Steed Creek Road: Dr. Brubaker reported on the history of the project and its current status. DOT has acquiesced to our concerns but with proposed construction costs at \$1million a mile it can only result change, change and more change. Coastal Carolina Conservation League, our major partner in this effort thinks that we now have the best deal we are going to get. Nonetheless, the process needs continued close scrutiny particularly in the design phase. In light of a DOT offer of our involvement, a motion was introduced:

Motion: The Native Plant Society resolves to collaborate with SCDOT and USFS regarding the re-vegetation of sensitive areas that will be disturbed by construction along the Steed Creek Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

Tyger River dam proposal: Huffman reviewed the position and events surrounding the study of this proposed dam, specifically that a completed Army Corps of Engineers environmental/feasibility study that the SCNPS had participated in is being withheld by Union County. Litigation may become necessary in order to obtain access to the document.

Saluda River: Huffman reported on a proposal to dump treated sewage in the Saluda and to modify portions of the river to accommodate a golf course. No action is being taken by the SCNPS Board at this time.

III. Old business

In establishing the 2007-08 budget during the June 16, 2007 meeting, the Board failed to take into consideration the requirement of the Bylaws to return a portion of membership dues to the chapters. This may result in a deficit and means of meeting this deficit were discussed. Finally, it was moved that:

The short fall due to lack of allocation of chapter funds will be made up, if necessary, in the 2007-2008 fiscal year from the cash reserve.

IV. New Business

Action on proposal for new chapter in the Beaufort – Hilton Head area:

Resolution:

Whereas, a petition was submitted to create a new chapter, the South Coast Chapter,

Whereas, the South Coast Chapter has a proposed slate of officers,

Whereas, the South Coast Chapter has 34 members as of Dec. 27, 2007, has held three meetings and has a number of projects underway, and

Whereas, the South Coast Chapter is developing chapter bylaws,

It was moved that the South Coast Chapter under the name be recognized and is authorized to proceed with organization. The resolution was unanimously accepted.

Action on Conservation Common Agenda: A motion authorizing our continued involvement in the organization and to pay \$100 in contributions was made and carried.

Other new business: With respect to the 2009 Symposium, DeGarady noted that the EPPC will be meeting in Columbia and asked if the Midlands Chapter would be interested in a joint meeting. Since the Symposium is the responsibility of the State Board, the State Board expresses interest and will pursue the matter at some later date.

V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.