

Pines and Prairies Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas

Pines and Prairies Chapter Board Meeting – May 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p by President Gail McConnell.

A quorum was established. Board members present were Gail McConnell, Mike McGee, David Lemons, Martin Simonton, and Carolyn Worsham. Jessica Mauch and Diane and Hugh Wedgeworth also attended.

Minutes were approved for the April 28, 2022, Chapter Board Meeting (approval moved by Mike; seconded by David).

Report of Vice President Martin Simonton – Martin noted that there have been few volunteers to date for propagation. Seed collection is ongoing. He will develop a protocol for seed collection by individuals (to include botanical name, county and date of collection). He said it was difficult to make a schedule for planting because many plants are seasonal and need to be planted at the appropriate time. Gail expressed her concern about having plants ready by September. A discussion followed about the timing of the fall plant sale as a part of The Woodlands Landscape Solutions event because it conflicts with the NPSOT Fall Symposium in Abilene. It was decided that we would revisit the date of the fall plant sale at the next meeting.

Report of the Treasurer David Lemons – Gail announced that a quilt raffle is being considered as a fund raiser for the NPSOT Kate Hillhouse Scholarship for undergraduate students and the Gonzales Research Grant for graduate students. She suggested sending \$500 from the Pines and Prairies Scholarship Fund to each. Carolyn moved and Martin seconded to send \$250 to each fund. David will transfer the money to NPSOT. David visited with Connor Murnane, State Forester at W. G. Jones State Forest about the continued use of the propagation tables in the nursery. The response was positive. David will survey the needs of the area, particularly how to level the ground for the tables and how to protect the seedlings, and will report at our next meeting. Martin said he can contribute seedlings to the propagation effort; however, Martin will be out-of-state until June 13.

Report of the President Gail McConnell – Gail reported that in a closed session after the last meeting it was decided that no further reimbursements will be made toward the cost of the water containment system at Spring Creek Nature Center. She scheduled the next board meeting for Thursday, July 14, 2022. Gail reported that 14 attended the field trip to St. Julian's Crossing, and 11 visited the other two sites as well. Gail asked that board members consider where the chapter should be in three years – membership, demonstration gardens, activities, etc. – and offer suggestions at the next meeting for inclusion in the three-year plan.

Report of Director-at-Large Abbie Ince-Hendrickson – A workday has been scheduled to begin at 7a on June 4 at the Spring Creek Nature Center Celebration Garden to put down and wet

cardboard and cover the area with 12 yards of mulch from Nature's Way. Karie Briscoe is working to get a dump truck for delivery. After Abbie, Kathie Herrick, and Gail spent time weeding the area last week, the consensus was that covering the area with cardboard and mulch a second time would suppress most of the grass currently growing around and through the cardboard placed in January. Mike reminded the group that he and a committee estimated it would take about 125 man-hours to remove the bahia grass. As of now, there are two people signed up to help on June 4.

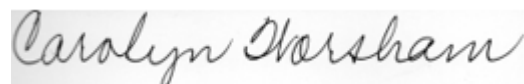
Other Reports and Business

- Jessica Mauch is attempting to keep the propagation activities going at the Sam Houston Field Station. Seeds that were planted in February did not survive; it is suspected that watering was not done regularly.
- David suggested that spreading the wetted cardboard at Spring Creek Nature Center with 6 yards of a soil blend of sand, compost, and top soil before adding 6 yards of mulch would be preferable to simply adding 12 yards of mulch. He said the cost should still be within the \$350 budgeted for 12 yards of mulch.
- Mike asked for authorization to explore available venues for a face-to-face meeting for Pines and Prairies. Authorization was granted, and he will report his findings at the next meeting.
- Gail noted that Heartwood Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, was seeking someone to head the "Saving Nature One Yard at a Time" program that was planned as a joint project with Pines and Prairies. She encouraged board members to look at California's ambassador program. She also noted that NPSOT has partnered with Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park initiative.
- Gail will poll members to find out what they want from NPSOT – education, volunteer opportunities, plant sales, etc.

Announcement – The next board meeting will be held Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 7:00pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57p.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Orsham". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.