

Annual Great Plains Society of American Foresters Meeting Minutes
Manhattan, Kansas
June 11, 2014

The Annual GPSAF business meeting opened at 12:15 at the Little Apple Brewery in Manhattan, KS. The meeting followed the conclusion of the National Walnut Council meeting in Manhattan. Those in attendance were: Bob Atchison, Brad Cooper (guest at meeting), Bill Cambridge, Greg Hoss (District Representative), John Barbur, Charles Barden, Lester Pinkerton, Rich Straight, Gary Naughton, Ryan Armbrust, Dennis Carlson, Dennis Adams, Steve Rasmussen, Pam Bergstrom, Jim Strine, Keith Lynch, Billy Beck, Bryan Peterson, David Bruton, Ryan Neises, Thad Rhodes, Katy Dhungel and Chris Erickson.

An agenda was passed out to all those in attendance.

Treasury Report: Dennis Carlson summarized the treasury information. The summary is below.

Beginning balance as of 1/1/2014: \$3484.07.

The main payments from January to June 18 include:

Kansas Forest Service (reimburse for GPSAF retractable banners (1 for NE, 1 for KS): \$199.98

Missouri SAF (Sponsorship for Leadership Academy): \$500.00

Sid Stevenson (Black walnut tree for Geyer Retirement and GPSAF planting): \$182.54

-tree planted at Kansas Forest Service grounds (Honor tree planting area).

National Walnut Council (Sponsorship of National meeting in KS): \$100.00

The major income included:

Dues: \$76.00

KNRC meeting income: \$600.00

Foresters Fund: \$1,000 remaining reimbursement for Rangefinder Training done at 2013

GPASAF meeting.

The balance as of 6/11/2014 was \$4,277.55.

There were no GPSAF meeting registration or auction items for the 2014 GPSAF meeting taken due to being held in conjunction with the National Walnut Council Meeting.

It was properly moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. All were in favor of accepting the report.

Greg Hoss (District 9 Council Representative) reported on the current events and happening at the National SAF level. Greg reported that Matt Menashes is now the Chief Executive Officer for SAF.

Greg also talked about the process the National office is going through for selling a portion of land owned around the National SAF Office. They are working up an investment strategy for the profits from the land sale to provide a more steady revenue stream from the dividends as opposed to relying heavily on dues. Dues are currently accounted for 30 to 40 percent of SAF's revenue.

Of the land to be sold, about 10 acres of it will be for a park while about 15 acres will be for development (Townhouses).

The National office is also working up a set of new bylaws that will be sent out to the membership and also very present at the U.S. Capital working on forestry related issues. Gregg reported that SAF is becoming much more sought after for information from several at the U.S. Capital since SAF is not a highly political organization.

Gregg also reported that the national SAF office also wants to consolidate the membership categories from five categories into one.

The Heartland leadership academy can have up to 5 GPSAF members attend. GPSAF had sponsored the Academy and currently two members plan to attend.

National Membership has held steady over the last couple of years with 12,000 to 13,000 members. However, there is still the need to reach out to the younger members.

As for the national convention, if planning to attend, registration and hotels can be found on the SAF website.

Gregg also let the group know there is a camp in New Mexico where a person can be a Visiting Forester. This is basically a Sunday to Sunday commitment where 20 time openings are available. This is a week-long event where the foresters get to instruct / educate camp attendees on forestry related matters. The contact person is Mark Anderson. If interested, contact Gregg so you can get Mark Anderson's contact information.

As for Council, Greg will be finishing up his term in another year. Individuals need to think about and run for being the council representative for District 9.

The update was appreciated by all those in attendance.

Bob Atchison had asked all the committee chairs to prepare a "Job Description" of each chair and those were submitted to Bob.

Committee Reports: Membership: Katy Dhungel reported that there are 52 GPSAF members. She also handed out years of membership pins to:

Dennis Adams: 20 years

Ray Aslin: 40 years

John Barbur: 30 years

John Gwaltney: 30 years

Ryan Neises: 10 years

Les Pinkerton: 50 years

Jack Vandergrift 50 years

Katy will be sending the pins for individuals not in attendance.

Communications: Kim Slezak (was not able to attend but sent message via Bob Atchison):

Kim has done a bunch of good work on the GPSAF web site. If you have any suggestions, photos, publications of interest, please send those to Kim. Kim is also taking care of the CFE credit certification.

Habitat for Humanity: Pam Bergstrom:

Pam reported that 2 trees (50 per tree) can be planted by each state. Nebraska already has 2 trees planned for planting at Habitat Houses. Kansas still has 2 trees available to be planted. Pam had sent Bob a listing of habitat for humanity local groups to Bob. Those local groups have also been sent out to the local District Foresters in KS. If a habitat tree is planted, make sure to provide a short summary and photos if possible to Pam. -Also foreword this on to Les Pinkerton for entry into GPSAF history.

Education: Jim Strine:

Jim reported he would like to have a summary of any educational activity that presented by a GPSAF member that deals with forestry. As with most years, the Walk in the Woods in KS and NE will take place later this fall.

History: Les Pinkerton:

Les reported that the 30 year history is now on the web site in pdf format. He requests for members to look at the last pages where there is a listing of GPSAF members that have passed. Some of those do not have a date so if you know of the date of the members passing, let Les know. As usual, if you find old GPSAF photos that are not in the history, send a jpeg of it to Les. Also, please look for any errors in the 30 year history document.

Nominations Committee: Rich Straight:

Rich reported that all the nominations for awards are now due on February 28 of each year. As always, be thinking of members that should be nominated for the various SAF awards.

Charlie Barden discussed some information about the fellow nominations. GPSAF may want to think about submitting a nomination.

Dates to remember: January 29th and 30 2015, Kansas Natural Resources Conference meeting in Wichita, KS.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45. The GPSAF annual meeting tree (Black Walnut for Wayne Geyer's retirement celebration) was planted at Kansas Forest Service grounds (Honor tree planting area) in Manhattan.

As a side note, if anyone is planting a bur oak this year, a GPSAF marker is available. –Get with David Bruton on this.