

**Annual Great Plains Society of American Foresters Meeting Minutes**  
**Hays, KS**  
**October 9, 2018**

The Annual GPSAF business meeting opened at 1:40 with the location being at the Hays research center in Hays, KS. Those in attendance were: Bob Atchison, Les Pinkerton, Ryan Armbrust, Dennis Carlson, Steve Rasmussen, Pam Bergstrom, Keith Lynch, Thad Rhodes, Katy Dhungel, John Strickler, David Bruton, Kim Slezak, Rachel Allison, John Barbur, Cassie Wandersee, Ryan Rastock, Jim Strine and Jami Seirer.

The 2018 Annual GPSAF meeting was held in conjunction with the Great Plains Tree Pest Council meeting (10/9-10/11). No GPSAF meeting registration was taken.

An agenda was passed out to all those in attendance.

Dennis Carlson presented the 2017 annual GPSAF minutes and a slight correction was noted.

The correction was for the payment of \$79.13 made to Pam Bergstrom on 10/11/2017 to note it was for the bur oak planted at the 2017 annual meeting in Nebraska.

A motion was properly made and seconded to approve the 2017 meeting minutes with the correction. Motion passed.

Treasury Report: Dennis Carlson provided a summary of the GPSAF treasury. A motion was properly made and seconded to approve the treasury report. A summary of what was presented at the meeting **plus** the remainder of 2018 is below.

Beginning balance as of 1/1/2018: \$4772.34.

Payments from January 2018 to December 2018 include:

Ryan Armbrust: \$18.29 for Rasmussen fellow plaque.

Dennis Carlson for the Kansas Walk in the Woods (meal expenses for presenters): \$100.00

Rachel Allison: \$60.12 for Bur oak tree for 2018 annual meeting.

Pam Bergstrom: \$36.93 for Habitat for Humanity tree planting in NE

Jami Seirer: \$71.85 for coffee, drinks, doughnuts and other snack items for the 2018 annual meeting and Great Plains tree pest council meeting that was held in conjunction with the GPSAF annual meeting.

Society of American Foresters: \$36.09 for HSD dues.

Income from January 2018 to December 2018 include:

Society Dues: \$120.00

Annual Meeting Silent Auction: \$317.00

Annual Meeting donation can: \$29.00

Ending Balance (12/31/2018): \$4915.06

Update: Annual dues were sent to KACEE (\$50.00 on 1/3/2019).

## REPORTS:

Membership: Katy Dhungel:

Katy shared there were 39 GPSAF members. This includes three new members from Nebraska.

Katy passed out GPSAF milestone pins to: Jim Brandle, 30 years, Stephanie Carlson, 30 years, and Jim Strine, 40 years.

There was talk about membership; the struggles and obstacles most all organizations are having with membership.

There was conversation about membership and when GPSAF would pay for ½ of the membership (national and state dues) of new membership or a lapse in membership. It was noted GPSAF passed a motion at the 2017 Annual Meeting to pay for ½ of the SAF dues to those who join SAF and one time for a person who had a lapse in membership.

Science and Technology: No report.

Awards, Bob Atchison: A nomination for Dennis Carlson was made for SAF Fellow.

It was reported Doak Nickerson (Forester, Nebraska) received the Field Forester award from the Dakotas SAF chapter which he is a member of.

Communications: Kim Slezak

The web hosting service (PC nuts) was discussed and a motion was properly made and seconded to continue with PC nuts as the web hosting site for GPSAF for a three year term (2019 to 2021). Motion passed.

There was discussion about GPSAF position statements and policies. It was agreed to using the GPSAF web site would be a better avenue for posting these as opposed to using state agency sites.

Cassie Wandersee (communications specialist with Kansas Forest Service) volunteered to help out with the GPSAF web site if needed.

Education: Jim Strine: Jim yielded the education report to Pam Bergstrom and Dennis Carlson. Pam Bergstrom reported on the Walk in the Woods event at WestPoint Park in Nebraska. There were around 140 5<sup>th</sup> grade students attending. Dennis Carlson reported on the Walk in the Woods event done at the Riggs Arboretum in Waterloo, KS. There were 355 5<sup>th</sup> grade students attending the program.

There was discussion of putting together a GPSAF success story for the Walk in the Woods program over the years.

History: Les Pinkerton: Les let those in attendance he will be working on the 35 year history of GPSAF.

Les said it would be good to get current photos of all the trees GPSAF has planted at annual meetings over the years. The tradition started in 1995 and is still done at each annual meeting. If anyone is near the location where an Annual Meeting tree was planted, please stop by and take a good photo and get the photo to Les. Please include a more specific location so the tree can be found many years from now. If the tree was removed / missing, please note and let Les know.

A listing of the location of the Annual Meeting trees planted over the years can be found at: <https://www.gpsaf.org/2017/30-year-history/> The tree locations are found on page 30 of the GPSAF history.

Habitat for Humanity: Pam Bergstrom: Pam reported on a HH planting in Grand Island, NE. –a lot of rain. There was no Habitat for Humanity tree planting in Kansas.

**New Business:** Ryan Armbrust reported on updates from National SAF and the HSD meeting in Portland Oregon. Ryan reported National SAF is updating the bylaws and once this is done, GPSAF will need to update the chapter bylaws. No action by GPSAF needs to be taken now. It was discussed when updating the GPSAF bylaws to have only a bare minimum of committees since our chapter is so small.

Bob Atchison had descriptions from each committee chair when he was the Chapter Chair. It would be beneficial to send out these committee descriptions on the listserv to see if other individuals are interested in serving on a committee.

It was reported the next Leadership Academy will take place in 2020.

Eastern red cedar policy paper: There was a lengthy discussion about creating a position paper on eastern red cedar. –How / where it plays a role in the landscape. Both Kansas and Nebraska are seeing pressure from constituents with this tree species. Therefore, it was decided to create a GPSAF white paper on Eastern red cedar. –A proactive approach. Bob Atchison, Kim Slezak and Steve Rasmussen volunteered to work on the Eastern red cedar policy paper. This will also involve the State Foresters and other GPSAF members contributing.

Ryan talked about the National SAF working on how to help chapter society treasury. -Mostly due to inconsistency of tax filing but also to protect non-profit status and liabilities.

Ryan Armbrust will be serving as the 2019 HSD Chair.

Dates of upcoming field days were presented. It was discussed to make sure the Field days are also posted on the GPSAF web site.

The 2019 annual meeting location was discussed. Nebraska will host the meeting (Kim Slezak). However, the National Walnut Council meeting will be held in Kansas on June 16 to June 19<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion of having the GPSAF annual meeting in conjunction with the Walnut Council meeting. The traditional October meeting was also ok. There was no decision made.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15

The Bur oak tree (propagation from Bur oak Canyon, NE) was planted at Frontier Park in Hays.