

CoNPS Board Meeting
Sunday, February 25th, 2024, 4:00 pm | Zoom

Present: Kelly Ambler, Anne Beard, Tim Berg, John Bregar, Leo Bruederle, Alex Crochet, Andrea England, Maggie Gaddis, Gwen Kittel, Brad Klafehn, Debbie Martin, Jim Pisarowicz, Lynn Riedel, Michelle Ritchie, Elizabeth Rose, Alex Smith, Linda Smith, Barb Valenti

The meeting was called to order by Alex Smith at 4:00 pm.

1. Alice Eastwood Scholarship (Leo Bruederle, 10 minutes)
 - a. Leo would like to establish a more concrete Memorandum of Understanding between himself and CoNPS. There are a few things that aren't in the Call for Proposals that Leo would like to have in writing.
 - b. The idea when the scholarship was first established was to raise \$50,000 in funds for the scholarship by 2029. This was originally Leo's personal goal, not a goal he had set for CoNPS. However, Maggie has now implied that there may be interest within CoNPS in raising more funds for the scholarship.
 - c. When the amount of the scholarship (\$950) was first presented, there were discussions that it was not very much. Although every bit of money is helpful for students, it might be a good idea to increase the scholarship amount. In 2020, assuming a return of 3.5% on the investments, CoNPS could expect to offer one scholarship each year. The applications for the scholarship in 2023 were excellent, so Leo is optimistic that this indicates that the quality of applications will continue to be high in the future. Leo would like to see if the Board is interested in raising more funds for the scholarship and increasing the monetary value of the scholarship. Leo particularly wants to have this information for his own estate so that his executor can know how much of his estate should go toward the scholarship.
 - d. When people become CoNPS members, they are given the opportunity to donate to funds including the Alice Eastwood Fund.
 - e. Alex can create a subcommittee to discuss the funding for the Alice Eastwood Scholarship and its amount.
2. Legislation Update (Brad Klafehn)
 - a. Brad Klafehn and the Conservation Committee have been following two bills.
 - b. House Bill 1117 gives Colorado Parks & Wildlife the ability to expand their scope to pollinators and rare plants. However, the bill will not amend the definition of wildlife, so pollinators and rare plants still will not be considered wildlife. CPW will have the power to plan programs for pollinators and rare plants, and there will be six full-time equivalents and six seasonal employees added to CPW in association with the bill. Brad Klafehn testified on the bill on behalf of CoNPS last week. The bill is being sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources.
 - c. The Colorado Legislature will also be incorporating rare plants into the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

- d. House Bill 24-1178 allows local governments to create and enforce laws regarding the sale and use of pesticides. Entities such as the People and Pollinators Action Network and the Town of Vail want to have the ability to restrict the use of certain pesticides in specific areas.
3. Program Announcements (Maggie Gaddis, 5 minutes)
- a. All of the chapters have been active, all of the committees have been meeting once a month, and we've been having state-wide meetings at least once a month.
 - b. We have had two programs employing microscopes. (Gwen Kittell was one of the individuals who led a microscope-assisted workshop this winter.)
 - c. Yesterday, we had the Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference, and it was a big success.
 - d. We have plant swaps and seed swaps in the Northern Chapter in the first weeks of March and then the Southwest Chapter has the Meet Up, Seed Up event, in which members will share seeds in advance of Durangoscape, Durango's native landscaping conference. Durango Botanic Gardens will be helping with this event, as it has become one of our leading partners in the Southwest Chapter. March 30th is the Western Landscape Symposium.
 - e. As April approaches, so do the youth education programs that we do for Earth Day. In the 2020 survey, CoNPS members said they wanted to participate in youth education programs, but it was difficult to find enough volunteers for our programs last year.
 - f. Jefferson County will be doing an Earth Day event at Crown Hill Park, which is slightly west of downtown Denver. We could pull people from Denver to help with the event. Jefferson County open space is expecting to see 200 or 300 people at the event, and they asked us to set up a table if we wanted one. Wild Ones is willing to share the table with us along with some of the other organizations we work closely with. There will be a tree planting, some clean up work, some seeding, and other opportunities at the event. Tim Berg created a flyer and sent it out.
 - g. We are trying to get CSEF funding. Since the CSEF is based in Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Arapahoe counties, we need events and participation in those counties in order to get CSEF funding. Tim Berg is focusing on increasing events and participation in the Denver area.
 - h. Things in the chat
4. Chapter and Committee Updates (All, 5 minutes each)
- a. Education Committee (Maggie Gaddis)
 - i. The most important thing the Education Committee is currently working on is preparing for Earth Day. They are starting to reschedule their tabling events from last year. They will be at the Boulder Farmers' Market. The Education Committee is also a part of planning the Annual Conference, which will be in Durango on September 21st.
 - ii. Michele Ritchie will be joining Maggie Gaddis in the leadership of the Education Committee.

- b. Restoration Committee (Andrea England)
 - i. The Restoration Committee is still going through target species, and Maggie is updating the Committee on what species they'll be collecting through the year for the Rocky Mountain Native Plant Materials program. However, CoNPS is currently in a holding pattern because USFS is changing the species list. Maggie and the USFS are devising a strategy to help volunteers scout for the plants on the list.
- c. Media Committee (Kelly Ambler)
 - i. The Media Committee is working on the next issue of *Aquilegia*, which will focus on landscaping with native plants. A couple of the articles in the issue will be written by authors from the Landscaping with Native Plants Conference. This is a good issue for publishing announcements about Earth Day activities.
 - ii. The Media Committee will be updating the members about the new individuals in leadership positions in CoNPS, so Kelly will be requesting headshots and bios from the Board.
- d. Field Studies Committee (Gwen Kittel)
 - i. The Field Studies Committee is proceeding with the Adopt a Rare Plant program and is working closely with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, which has compiled a list of species. The committee is also continuing with the phenology project that it began last year. The Boulder County Naturalist Association has asked Gwen to lead a field trip to Todd Gulch Fen. Gwen will lead two field trips: one for CoNPS and one for the naturalist association.
- e. Conservation Committee (Linda Smith and Brad Klafehn)
 - i. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas asked for a representative from the Conservation Committee to attend three meetings this year involving some kind of committee. Linda has volunteered to be the representative.
 - ii. Linda hopes to provide Kelly with some information for the upcoming issue of *Aquilegia* on the legislation the Conservation Committee has helped facilitate. In the next issue, Linda plans to put a larger article on the legislation in *Aquilegia*. The committee will try to send something to the Facebook administrators for the CoNPS facebook page.
 - iii. There were two hearings this last week on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest Plan. Many environmental organizations have been interested in this plan, and CoNPS filed objections to the final plan along with the other environmental organizations. One objection was on the plan's treatment of invasive and noxious weeds. The USFS had stated that 25,000 acres of the forest are infested with such weeds, but one of the specialists involved with the plan stated that there are likely around 125,000 acres of forest land infested with invasive and noxious weeds. Because those extra acres are not in the USFS database, USFS is not trying to address them. USFS did an invasibility study on the forest, and the results showed that anywhere from 25 to 40 percent of the forest

can be invaded. The USFS also stated that it would determine which at-risk species would be affected by its herbicide treatments and attempt to minimize the effects of the herbicides on the at-risk species in ten years. The second objection was on the species of conservation concern list. There were at least ten species that were not included on the list because USFS did not have access to data on population trends or documented habitat decline trends. The Conservation Committee would argue that USFS does not need those two trends to include species on the list. The committee presented their arguments for including the excluded species on the list to the Assistant Director of the USFS. There likely won't be significant changes as a result of the objections made by CoNPS. However, the lawyers for organizations such as the Center for Biological Diversity and the Wilderness Workshop might sue the USFS if the current plan is not altered. (There are other problems with the plan as well.)

- f. Plateau Chapter (Jim Pisarowicz)
 - i. The Plateau Chapter recently had an in-person meeting for the first time in a couple years. Jim recently led programs on the wildflowers in Death Valley National Park and the spring wildflowers in Colorado. The chapter's next meeting will be on March 11th in the Mesa County Library. Jim will be leading another program at Outwest Books on March 27th at 6:30 pm in which he will talk about early bloomers at the Colorado National Monument. The chapter will be doing a spring wildflowers ethnobotany program at the Ute Indian Museum on March 30th at 10:00 am and an Escalante Canyon spring wildflowers program on April 26th and 27th. (The Escalante Canyon program will be a campout.) On May 6th at 9:00 am the Lunch Loops Native Plant Walk will occur. It is being hosted by the City of Grand Junction.
- g. Boulder Chapter (Lynn Riedel and Debby Martin)
 - i. The Boulder Chapter is getting ready to start preparing field trips for the summer. The chapter will soon start to plan its fall, winter, and spring programs as well. The chapter will be switching to Zoom for its meetings.
 - ii. There are still some scheduling conflicts for the Boulder Chapter. For example, on April 3rd, there is a Denver event called Rooted in Research, which conflicts with the Boulder chapter's meeting on that date.
 - iii. The Boulder Chapter is recording some of its speaker events. CoNPS needs to discuss the process for publishing those videos online.
- h. Metro-Denver Chapter (Tim Berg)
 - i. The Denver Chapter now has five leaders. Tim would like to create relationships with some municipalities. The chapter already has a relationship with Jefferson County Open Space. In the future, CoNPS and Jefferson County Open Space will share a calendar and help promote each others' events.
- i. San Luis Valley Chapter (Maggie Gaddis)

- i. No San Luis Valley Chapter currently exists because the chapter no longer meets the requirement for qualifying as a chapter.
- j. Southwest Chapter (John)
 - i. The Southwest Chapter has an event coming up on March 7th that will be about gardening for pollinators. John will be talking about some wildflowers in Patagonia, Argentina on April 4th. Al Schneider will be giving a walk on May 4th in Sand Canyon. John has also contacted Arnold Clifford to see if he will give a field trip on the Navajo Reservation in the beginning of June.
- k. Southeast Chapter (Barb Valenti)
 - i. There are no big updates for the Southeast Chapter.

Alex Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:36 pm.

Zoom Meeting Chat

15:55:58 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

<https://riversedgewest.org/get-involved/events/2024-riparian-restoration-conference-restoration-future>

15:59:50 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Hello Folks!

16:00:19 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Maggie - Hi!

16:00:30 From Alex to Everyone:

Alex Crochet, Colorado Springs

16:00:39 From Alex Smith to Everyone:

Alex Smith, Teller County Board President...

16:00:40 From Brad Klafehn to Everyone:

Brad Klafehn, Co-chair, Conservation Committee, in Denver.

16:00:47 From Elizabeth Rose to Everyone:

Hi everyone! I'm Elizabeth Rose. Like Alex, I'm from Colorado Springs.

16:01:03 From Debby to Everyone:

This is Debby Martin. I'm joining you today on behalf of the Boulder Chapter of CoNPS.

16:01:14 From Linda Smith to Everyone:

Linda Smith, Co-chair, conservation committee, from Loveland.

16:01:19 From Anne Beard to Everyone:

I'm Anne and work part-time with Maggie

16:01:30 From Leo Bruederle to Everyone:

Leo Bruederle, member Eastwood Selection Committee, Denver

16:01:31 From Barb Valenti to Everyone:

Barb Valenti, Colorado Springs, Assist Curt Nimz SE leader

16:11:50 From Jim Pisarowicz to Everyone:

Jim Pisarowicz - Montrose on the western slope - Plateau Chapter President

16:12:55 From Tim Berg to Everyone:

Tim - Denver Chapter - I live in Littleton area

16:13:24 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Thank you, Leo

16:14:49 From Michele to Everyone:

MOUs are typically tied to a deliverable(s) as well.

16:20:20 From Leo Bruederle to Everyone:

Thanks all! I'll be back in touch regarding the the Board's/Society's goals.

16:21:12 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Welcome John Bregar, joining to represent the SW chapter

16:21:56 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

<https://legiscan.com/CO/bill/HB1117/2024#:~:text=Colorado%20House%20Bill%201117&tex>

t=Concerning%20including%20certain%20species%20under,that%20regulate%20parks%20and%20wildlife.

16:22:51 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

FTE - Full Time Equivalent

16:23:07 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

288 hrs, 6 full time, 6 seasonal

16:24:23 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

related news:

<https://coloradosun.com/2023/12/28/opinion-endangered-species-act-50-colorado/>

16:25:08 From Michele to Everyone:

FYI, CPW is housed under Dept. of Natural Resources

16:26:13 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1178>

16:26:52 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/CNAP-Rare-Plants.aspx>

16:27:08 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

[last link... back to ESA revisions... still haven't found that one]

16:27:39 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

I think this it:

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024A/bills/2024a_1117_h_awn_01.pdf

16:29:28 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

TikTok

Snapchat

LOL

16:29:47 From Tim Berg to Everyone:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/FindMyLegislator>

16:36:21 From Gwen Kittel to Everyone:

How about Conps volunteers who are on the conservation committee, monitor and respond to the social media Posts and Questions?

16:36:52 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Gwen - the Conservation committee is Mo, Linda, and Brad. :-)

16:44:33 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Love all these partners!

16:45:37 From Linda Smith to Everyone:

I need to let you all know that Brad has done an absolutely tremendous job over the years for the Conservation Committee. His expertise and enthusiasm is unmatched, and we as a Society are so very lucky to have him on board! It's our intent as a Committee to put together an article for Aquilegia about our legislative efforts and successes.

16:45:50 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

thank you, Linda!

16:46:05 From Gwen Kittel to Everyone:

Got to step away, back in 5- 10 min

16:46:07 From Kelly A to Everyone:
Reacted to "I need to let you al..." with 🙌

16:46:19 From Michele to Everyone:
Reacted to "I need to let you al..." with 😊

16:46:19 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
SCFD

16:46:25 From Linda Smith to Everyone:
For social media, what we can do is get a draft ready, and send it to whoever the admins are for Facebook and Instagram.

16:46:30 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District

16:46:49 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
<https://scfd.org/>

16:47:30 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
Garden Tours

16:53:39 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
Garden Tours end with Plant Sale
Denver - June 8,9, nursery partner - Colorado Native Plant Nursery
Boulder - June 15 - Harlequins
SE - June 22 - Cheyenne Mountain State Park and CoNPS member Kristin Maupin propagating and plant give away (not sale)
Northern - June 30 - High Plains Environmental Center
SW - TBA, but working on it
Plateau - TBA, but working on it

16:54:19 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
CNHP is changing the target species list??

16:55:38 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
Annual Conference - Sept 21st, field trips 9/22
linking into National Public Lands Day... service oriented field trips in addition to normal botany hikes

16:57:08 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
CoNPS Leadership Survey - <https://forms.gle/vfcFb5nmy7nX5nP38>

16:57:40 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
Jim and Alex - you filled it out!

16:59:16 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
yes! they are looking to add species for forest fire restoration

16:59:25 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
sorry I did not communicate that

16:59:49 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
I think we will still collect the species I am training the committee on

16:59:56 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):

Started with the most obvious

17:00:44 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
and yeah, I didn't know Alex was going to ask for the updates formally. Let's work on that... could just be a summary of mtg notes

17:01:24 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
Interesting. That makes sense. More forbs, less grasses? we can chat about it at a later date

17:02:10 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:
it

17:02:31 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
it's a longer list... but some are the same, like the penstemon virens

17:03:40 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
i did review my notes from the last Restoration Cmte but they were not very helpful.

17:03:53 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
Would you come to the USFS mtgs? that's how I learn... I am not directing the species determination

17:04:40 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
sure, when i can, absolutely. i won't have anything to add, but i want to learn, too

17:05:01 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
invite your son!

17:05:12 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
Been thinking he should be on the restoration committee

17:05:17 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
i can barely get alex to return my text messages, Maggie.

17:05:32 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
Alex Smith?

17:06:01 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
?

17:06:11 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
next USFS mtg is Feb 29th 11a on Teams

17:06:35 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
who are you texting... Alex Smith or Alex Crochet?

17:06:51 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
texting alex England, my son!

17:06:59 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
hahahahahaha

17:07:08 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
indeed HAHAHA

17:07:08 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):
I forgot he was one of the Alexes

17:07:14 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):
so did i!

17:08:34 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):

would you please send me the link for the USFS mtg? I kinda thought you asked someone that I be included, but maybe not

17:08:34 From Gwen Kittel to Everyone:

Hi I am back, sorry, sending hubby off with a casserole for a friend recovering from surgery...

17:18:52 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Program Engagement Form: <https://forms.gle/Co9PWT3Q62a2p2Ng8>

17:22:26 From Michele to Everyone:

If it's a Zoom cloud, not all levels of Zoom accounts allow the cloud recordings.

17:26:47 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

for what's it is worth, this is where any recorded CoNPS events are currently stored with no fan fare:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu3S-fhKXxKCK4-9ZDk8qa02KeE8g0f3->

17:27:24 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):

P.S. - I love your background photo. Beautiful

17:27:53 From Maggie Gaddis to Andrea England(Direct Message):

thank you! hermaphrodite flowers... see lower one has no boy parts. Upper flower has both

17:28:30 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):

cool!

17:35:20 From Maggie Gaddis to Everyone:

Thank you!

17:35:41 From Andrea England to Maggie Gaddis(Direct Message):

i have to leave at 5:45

17:35:46 From Michele to Everyone:

Did we intentionally miss SE chapter?