

**CoNPS General Board Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 23rd, 2024, 4:00 pm | Zoom**

Present: Tim Berg, Alex Crochet, Andrea England, Maggie Gaddis, Kenar Houghton, Gwen Kitell, Brad Klafehn, Curt Nimz, Jim Pisarowicz, Jackie Ramaley, Lynn Riedel, Michele Ritchie, Elizabeth Rose, Alex Smith, Anna Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Alex Smith at 4:02 pm.

1. Lifetime Achievement Award Discussion (Maggie Gaddis, 5 minutes)
  - a. Maggie would like to start the process for selecting the individual who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. If any members would like to assist in the process, they are welcome to do so. Maggie plans to repeatedly solicit the members in the E-news to nominate individuals for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Once the nominees have been selected, a single recipient will be determined.
2. Annual Conference Update (Maggie Gaddis, 5 minutes)
  - a. CoNPS is already far into the process of planning the conference, which will be in Durango from September 21st to September 22nd. Maggie is hoping to show the movie [Native Seeds: Supplying Restoration](#).
  - b. CoNPS has not yet secured lodging for the conference. This is a task that volunteers could help complete. If any individuals know of any good hotels in the Durango area, they should let CoNPS know so that CoNPS can seek reservation blocks at those hotels.
  - c. CoNPS has reserved the Junction Creek Group Campsite for the conference registrants.
  - d. Some new individuals (including Kenar Houghton, Elizabeth Rose, and Alyx Ford) will be speaking at the conference.
  - e. Gwen Kittel suggests that CoNPS add some sort of acknowledgement for Tim Hogan (1955-2023), as Tim did a lot of collecting in the San Juan Mountains. (He was the curator for the CU Boulder Herbarium.)
3. Silent Auction/Photo Contest Update (Maggie Gaddis, 10 minutes)
  - a. A new volunteer has come forward and voiced an interest in managing the CoNPS calendar.
  - b. CoNPS has taken on three new interns this year.
4. Chapter and Committee Updates (All, 5 minutes each)
  - a. Horticulture Committee (Ann Grant)
    - i. The Horticulture Committee organized a Xeriscape Garden Party, which occurred on June 18th. The committee helped grow over 3,000 native plants and grasses in Loveland, and at least 600 other plants were donated the morning of the plant swap. They were invited back for next year. The committee also organized a Native Plant Swap, which hosted more than 650 participants.
    - ii. The Horticulture Committee is currently planning for a November seed swap.
    - iii. On June 30th, the Horticulture Committee will help host the Loveland Native Garden tour.
    - iv. The Horticulture Committee is organizing the first Estes Park Native Plant Garden Tour on July 13th. The tour will start at Mrs. Walsh's Garden,

- which will be paying for the plants.
- b. Restoration Committee (Andrea England)
    - i. There are ten upcoming seed collection events, and each of those events has now been placed on the calendar. The events will start in Thunder Basin on June 28th and 29th and extend through October.
    - ii. The Restoration Committee will be assisting in the selection of interns for the USDA Rocky Mountain Region Native Plant Materials Program. This is the announcement that will be sent to members about the new interns: [CoNPS Restoration Internship Announcement](#).
  - c. Field Studies Committee (Gwen Kittel)
    - i. The Adopt a Rare Plant program is up and running. (Participants in the program are currently looking at *Aquilegia saximontana* and historic occurrences of *Castilleja purpurea*.)
    - ii. There will be three more phenology studies at Todd Gulch Fen this year as a continuation of last year's program.
  - d. Conservation Committee (Blad Klafehn)
    - i. The Conservation Committee has helped facilitate the passage of some big legislative wins, including a law adding rare plants and invertebrates to CPW's authority. They will now be included in the 2025 SWAP. Governor Polis has signed the nonfunctional turf bill, and CNHP has received an \$8 million GOCO grant to survey biodiversity in underserved areas.
  - e. CoNPS is recruiting a leader for the Northern Chapter because the chair recently resigned after a year in the position.
  - f. Plateau Chapter (Jim Pisarowicz)
    - i. The garden tours in Grand Junction were successful. The chapter has a flower program at Buckhorn Lake coming up on Tuesday. On July 18th, Jim and Mary Menz will host a wildflower walk and talk in the U.S. Basin. On July 29th, the Plateau Chapter will also host a hike at Black Bear Pass.fly
  - g. Boulder Chapter (Lynn Riedel)
    - i. The Boulder Chapter has recently led many successful field trips. It has a few more field trips planned for July and may have more trips pop up later in the summer. The Boulder Garden Tour was a big success.
    - ii. Maggie Gaddis added that two years in a row, CoNPS volunteers have become employees at Harlequin's. This has made partnering with Harlequin's much easier and helped make the garden tour successful. Although CoNPS Brought in over \$2,000 in plant sales for Harlequin's, it is not receiving money for its efforts. However, the idea of ending the garden tours at partner nurseries has worked well overall.
    - iii. In response to Maggie's comment about CoNPS's relationship with Harlequin's, Lynn added that Harlequins has long been a valued resource to the local community and has sponsored numerous CONPS events over the years (including recent events that Maggie has coordinated). The Boulder Chapter does not know the arrangements made with Harlequin's for the garden tour and any potential revenue sharing that was assumed or agreed upon up front. They do know from personal experience that the retail nursery industry in general and Harlequin's in particular have very thin profit margins. Thus, the Boulder Chapter does not think it fair to expect Harlequin's to discount their products or to share the small profit

- they make from events like the garden tour with CoNPS.
- iv. The Boulder Chapter has also started its first steps in planning programs for next year. It is toying with the idea of having a couple in-person meetings, which is something that hasn't occurred since Covid.
  - h. Metro-Denver Chapter (Tim Berg)
    - i. Yesterday's plant swap had 2,000 participants and 7,000 plants. Pea Pen and Wild Ones did a lot of the groundwork for the plant swap. There is significant interest in the next plant swap. In addition, Tim handed out around 500 bookmarks, and a couple people said they wanted to join CoNPS.
    - ii. Maggie hopes to partner with the Colorado Mountain Club. If CoNPS could connect with CMC and do botany hikes with CMC, then the members of both organizations would benefit.
  - i. Southwest Chapter (Kenar Houghton)
    - i. The Southwest Chapter is currently hosting around two to three field trips per month. Arnold Clifford recently did a garden tour. The chapter also hosted its very first Southwest Chapter social, and Al Schneider gave a talk. The chapter is thinking of creating field trip sheets that members could use to organize their finds on field trips.
  - j. Arkansas Valley Chapter (Wendy)
    - i. There are about 40 people on the new mailing list. The majority of them are members. The chapter's first wildflower walk is scheduled for next Sunday. Registrations are coming in slowly, so Wendy hopes to work with a local reporter to promote the walk and introduce the chapter. Wendy and Allison would also like to organize a garden tour.
  - k. Southeast Chapter (Curt Nimz)
    - i. The Southeast Chapter hosted a highly successful trip with the Orchid Society in Mueller State Park. The group found 350 calypso orchids. Last week, the chapter took a trip to Pikes Peak and Sandstone Open Space in Douglas County. The chapter has about five more field trips scheduled for July, but it likely won't have anything in August unless Maggie leads a field trip in Garden of the Gods.
    - ii. In response to Curt Nimz's comments on his findings of rare orchids on Southeast Chapter field trips, Lynn Riedel and Gwen Kittell mentioned that individuals should refrain from posting the locations of rare plants on iNaturalist.
    - iii. Gwen Kittell suggested that an article could be written for *Aquilegia* on the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, its work to document rare plants, and the protocol for rare plant documentation in general and in the context of social media. Jennifer Ackerfield might be a good author of such an article or a good source to consult with for such an article.

The meeting was called to order by Alex Smith at 5:16 pm.