

CoNPS Board Meeting
Sunday, December 10, 2023, 4:00 pm | Zoom

Present: Alex Bruce, Alex Smith, Andrea England, Anna Wilson, Anne Beard, Ann Grant, Barb Valenti, Elizabeth Rose, Jim Pisarowicz, Kelly Ambler, Maggie Gaddis, Mason Mizener, Michele Ritchie, Pat Butler, Tim Berg

The meeting was called to order by Alex Smith at 4:05 pm.

1. Approval of October Minutes (Alex Smith, 2 minutes)
 - a. A motion was put forward to approve the October Board Meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded. Motion passed to approve minutes for the October meeting.
2. LWCNP Conference (Anne Beard, 10 minutes)
 - a. We are in need of volunteers for the 2024 Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference. CoNPS might have a table at the conference with seeds, information, or something along those lines. CoNPS hopes to continue its relationship with the Conference. Anne Beard is doing much of the financial work involved in the partnership with the conference, while Chelsea is doing much of the organizational work. Anne Beard and Maggie Gaddis both attend the organizational meetings with the conference and receive relevant emails.
3. Introduction of New Board Members and Officers (Elizabeth Rose, Michelle Ritchie, Andrea England, 5 minutes)
 - a. Elizabeth Rose is joining as the new Secretary of the Board.
 - b. Michelle Ritchie is joining as a Board Member At Large.
 - c. Andrea England is joining as a Board Member At Large.
4. Chapter and Committee Updates (All, 40 minutes)
 - a. Horticulture Committee (Ann Grant)
 - i. Since the last Board Meeting, the Horticulture Committee hosted the NOCO Seed Swap, a collaboration with the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter. More than 200 people registered for the seed swap, and 340 people came to the front desk at Spring Creek to ask where the seed swap was occurring.
 - ii. The Horticulture Committee is considering making seeds available at the Landscaping with Native Plants Conference. The Committee knows of seeds from the NOCO Seed Swap and the Denver Seed Swap that are being held at the office of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers in Fort Collins which could be used for the conference. Ann Grant will not be able to attend the Landscaping with Native Plants Conference, but volunteers from the Horticulture Committee can be recruited to help with the event (which will be held at the Embassy Suites in Boulder this year).
 - iii. A goal for the Horticulture Committee for next year is to get stronger CoNPS involvement in the seed swaps for different chapters, especially the seed swaps in Boulder and Denver. The seed swaps have been run

- primarily by Wild Ones, so CoNPS needs to step up and get more involved with those projects.
- iv. The Horticulture Committee has spent much of the last couple of months working on the certification process for the Certified Native Garden Program. It has finished revising the application and rubric for the program and is now going to start reviewing applications. The new certification process is superior to the previous process because it includes more clearly defined guidelines for assessing gardens.
 - v. The Horticulture Committee has been quite productive and received a high level of interest from CoNPS members. It has been particularly successful this year in its outreach through native seed swaps and native plant swaps in Colorado Springs and northern Colorado. It is hosting a planting event in Colorado Springs with Alex Crochet this upcoming spring and hopes to do more planting events in other locations.
- b. Education Committee (Maggie Gaddis)
- i. The Education Committee had a productive year. They hosted a series of training events related primarily to topics involving restoration and landscaping (Maggie Gaddis is currently curating those into videos); engaged over 450 students in youth education activities; and visited public events including festivals and farmers markets. CoNPS chapters should contact the Education Committee with any opportunities they might have for committee members to practice speaking.
 - ii. The Education Committee is seeking a new chair. Anyone who has interest in the position or knows of someone who might take on the position should email Maggie Gaddis or Alex Smith.
- c. Restoration Committee (Maggie Gaddis)
- i. The Restoration Committee is currently partnering with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and the U.S. Forest Service to develop the Rocky Mountain Native Plant Materials program. As a part of that collaboration, the committee scouts and collects native seeds. Its meetings this winter will focus on examining workhorse species and their characteristics by which they can be identified during seed collections.
- d. Media Committee (Kelly Ambler)
- i. The Media Committee needs volunteers who would be willing to read through articles for *Aquilegia*.
 - ii. Maggie and Kelly are also looking for someone who would be willing to take information from the CoNPS website, compile it, and enter it into the correct format for *Aquilegia*.
 - iii. Making sure there are enough articles for each issue of *Aquilegia* is a constant worry. It would be ideal to have enough articles for the next two or three issues. There are enough Garden Natives articles and research reports, but more articles (especially featured stories) are needed.
 - iv. The Media Committee is still struggling to coordinate the magazine with the website and the e-news. In addition, Anna Wilson oversees the

Facebook account, but overall engagement in social media is lacking. We might put ads out to recruit help for the Media Committee. Help is especially needed from the younger members in order to increase CoNPS engagement on Instagram. We could potentially take on an intern to help with social media.

- v. The Board Members can help push CoNPS through their personal social media accounts.
 - vi. Alex Crochet has volunteered to take control of the CoNPS instagram page.
 - e. Field Studies Committee (Maggie Gaddis)
 - i. The Field Studies Committee is considering attempting to expand the Adopt a Rare Plant program into El Paso County and using it in a specific landscape (the Pinerias in Black Forest). This is a slightly different model that might help attract volunteers in a new way.
 - f. Northern Chapter (Ann Grant)
 - i. Ann Grant is stepping down as chapter president. Mason Mizener is stepping in as the new chapter president.
 - g. Plateau Chapter (Jim Pisarowicz)
 - i. The Plateau Chapter is looking for a new chairperson, and a few people have expressed interest. The chapter is trying to find its representation in the Grand Junction area. It is also discussing having garden tours and related programs in Grand Junction because Grand Junction is the center of gravity for the CoNPS members in the region. It hopes to work with the Montrose Botanic Society and the Ute Museum next year.
 - h. Boulder Chapter (Pat Butler)
 - i. The Boulder Chapter just finished its third winter meeting. It hosted researchers from the Park Service, who spoke about their attempts to restore riparian areas that have been damaged by elk and moose.
 - ii. The chapter has three remaining programs next year and will start thinking about summer field trips in the spring.
 - i. Metro-Denver Chapter (Tim Berg)
 - i. Over sixty people attended the recent holiday party, while sixteen of those people participated in the nature hike.
 - ii. The chapter needs assistance on its leadership team. Tim Berg would appreciate any additional guidance from experienced CoNPS members.
 - iii. The chapter will soon be hosting a seed sowing event at the Denver Audubon Kingery Nature Center. On April 18th, the Rotary Club is hosting a volunteer day that the chapter hopes to encourage CoNPS members to participate in.
 - j. Southeast Chapter (Barb Valenti)
 - i. The Southeast Chapter has had 6 meetings with 120 attendees and 11 field trips with 92 attendees. On January 8th, the chapter is hosting its first planning meeting to work on meetings and field trips for 2024.
5. Program Updates (Maggie Gaddis, 5 minutes)

- a. There is potential to form an Intermountain Chapter and phase out the San Luis Valley Chapter, which is currently lacking leadership. The crew at the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens was previously part of a CoNPS chapter that has since been shut down, so the creation of the Intermountain Chapter would be supported by the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, conference partners, and future non-profit partners in Summit County.
- b. There are 2,137 current members, and 796 of those members (37.2%) have accounts that are past due. The trend in CoNPS over the past few years has been that the number of current paying members declines as the year goes on because people's memberships go past due. (The percentage of members whose accounts are past due increases.) However, the total number of CoNPS members increases throughout the year.
- c. The current revenue from statewide programs in 2023 is \$9,208. The revenue at this point last year was significantly higher (perhaps around twice as large) because we no longer have a paid employee helping to increase the revenue.
- d. This year, 196 events and 20 partner events have appeared on the CoNPS calendar. There have been 54 meetings, 12 statewide programs, and 1 course (which involved 4 meetings).
- e. The 2023 garden tour generated \$2,970 in revenue.
- f. More than 1,000 plants were given away in the plant sale.
- g. There were a total of 2,503 event registrations this year.
- h. The bookstore YTD sales add up to \$20,487. This is fairly similar to the bookstore sales from last year.
- i. It is difficult to establish recurring CoNPS memberships because each member's chapter is assigned prior to the assignment of membership level. To reduce the percentage of members who are past due, it will likely be necessary to change the membership process so that membership level is assigned before chapter. There is already a system that sends each member reminders to renew their memberships as their due date approaches and sends past due members around two notifications that they are past due. We might consider conducting outreach to compel past due members to renew their memberships.

Alex Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.

Zoom Meeting Chat

16:07:36 From Maggie Gaddis : Alex Bruce is attending as our representative

16:13:20 From Anne Beard : <https://landscapingwithcoloradonativeplants.wordpress.com/>

16:15:24 From Anne Beard : Boulder

16:15:59 From Maggie Gaddis : Landscaping conference is in the CoNPS calendar

16:16:35 From Maggie Gaddis : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-landscaping-with-colorado-native-plants-conference-tickets-761926190747>

16:20:58 From Tim Berg : ronda.koski@colostate.edu is the person to email if you want to volunteer at the Conference

16:21:03 From Maggie Gaddis : SE chapter seed sowing event - <https://conps.org/home-2/events/event-calendar-2/#!event/2024/1/12/native-seed-planting-event-hosted-by-conps-and-wild-ones>

16:24:31 From Maggie Gaddis : Next Education Committee - Dec. 20th - <https://conps.org/home-2/events/event-calendar-2/#!event/2023/12/20/conps-education-outreach-committee-meeting>

16:24:55 From Maggie Gaddis : Next Horticulture Committee Mtg - Dec 18th - <https://conps.org/home-2/events/event-calendar-2/#!event/2023/12/18/conps-horticulture-committee-meeting>

16:27:15 From Maggie Gaddis : Next Restoration Committee Mtg - Dec 15th - <https://conps.org/home-2/events/event-calendar-2/#!event/2023/12/15/restoration-committee-meeting>

16:28:25 From Maggie Gaddis : Aquilegia needs copyeditors! Also need a volunteer to compile events from the calendar for submission to the Aquilegia.

16:28:54 From Alex Smith : I am willing!

16:28:55 From Anne Beard : I can read articles!

16:29:13 From Elizabeth Rose : I can also read articles.

16:29:33 From Ann Grant-CoNPS : I can read articles!

17:00:55 From Ann Grant-CoNPS : I have someone who might want to join an intermountain chapter from the Hort Comm.

17:11:59 From Maggie Gaddis : Oh that's great!

17:12:17 From Alex's iPhone : Thanks!

17:12:32 From Mason Mizener : Thank you all!

17:12:49 From Andrea England (she/her) : Am I a voting member?

17:15:51 From Andrea England (she/her) : Maggie, did you say there'd be a discussion of the Black Forest at the next Field Studies Committee meeting?

17:20:27 From Alex Smith : Yes you are Andrea! And we are happy to have you!

17:20:31 From Michele Ritchie : I'm here. Sorry, my camera will be off to keep my connection stable.

17:20:45 From Alex Smith : Maggie did say that.

17:20:58 From Alex Smith : Understood Michele.

17:21:58 From Maggie Gaddis : Yes Andrea, maybe not the next meeting. I will copy you into those emails

17:22:03 From Maggie Gaddis : about the Black Forest

17:22:25 From Maggie Gaddis : Northern- Mason

17:22:31 From Andrea England (she/her) : Reacted to "Northern- Mason" with 👍

17:22:33 From Maggie Gaddis : SE - Barb Vallenti
17:22:40 From Andrea England (she/her) : Reacted to "Yes you are Andrea! ..." with 👍
17:22:45 From Maggie Gaddis : Denver - Tim Berg
17:22:53 From Maggie Gaddis : Boulder - Pat Butler
17:23:10 From Maggie Gaddis : Plateau - Jim Piscarowisz
17:23:18 From Maggie Gaddis : SW - absent
17:23:20 From Maggie Gaddis : SLV- absent
17:31:03 From Maggie Gaddis : Annual Recurring Revenue (current paying members) \$45,542
17:32:16 From Maggie Gaddis : Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a tax the seven district Boulder and Denver residents assess themselves to support non-profit
17:32:34 From Maggie Gaddis : year 1 - every address was wrong, we spent the year straightening up our paperwork
17:32:48 From Tim Berg : SCFD distributes about 80 Million annually, it comes from Sales taxes from 7 Colorado Counties
17:33:15 From Maggie Gaddis : year 2- not quite at the place they are looking = more than 50% of our programming and impacts affects 7 district area
17:33:42 From Maggie Gaddis : year 3 ie 2024 - let's meet that 50% or more mark for SCFD
17:55:48 From Michele Ritchie : Ann Grant said that
17:56:04 From Tim Berg : we probably need to make a motion
18:00:20 From Tim Berg : so just change the name of the other chapter
18:01:05 From Anne Beard : Yes, let's strive next to meet the programming requirement for SCFD