

Minutes
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
August 8, 2022, 6:00pm | Zoom Meeting
Governing Board Meeting

Attended: Emily Dangremond, Susanne Masi, Eric Ulaszek, Lailah Reich, Joseph Armstrong, Christopher Benda, cassi saari, Daniel Pohl, Angela Kerber, Gretel Kiefer, Anna Braum, Trish Quintenz, Jeff Nelson, Floyd Catchpole.

Meeting Begins: 6:02pm

Review and approve the Minutes from the [June](#) governing board meeting.

- Joseph moved to approve revised minutes, Daniel abstained on approval of minutes from June meeting, as he was not in attendance at that meeting. Emily seconded, all approved, none opposed.

Website Report: Web report for [August](#) 2022.

- Not as much web traffic for July 2022
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document and archive will be sent to Gretel.
- This is Jeff's last month before transition, please reach out to Jeff with any questions via email.

Membership Report (Anna Braum):

- Quarterly report linked [here](#) (note that the report was produced for August instead of July since we did not have a meeting last month).
- [Certificates for life members.](#)
 - Need to determine who would receive these and who would be in charge of sending out. INPS Secretary can mail these out, use special paper to print. Different designs for different levels of membership. Cassi to send files to Lailah for editing per new life membership. Mail one to Chris Benda.

Chapter Reports:

- Forest Glen Chapter (Eric Ulaszek): Field trips ongoing and new field trips this fall.
- Kankakee Torrent Chapter (Floyd Catchpole): Will send information for LR to insert.
- Grand Prairie Chapter (Joseph Armstrong): Joe needs to be reimbursed from annual gathering. Treasurer can reimburse fronted costs. Susanne gave Anna checks and Anna mailed them to Courtney. Joe needs Courtney's address. State Board to work on this. Need to know the exact amount Joe needs to be reimbursed.
 - Floyd motioned to reimburse the Grand Prairie Chapter overages/net loss for annual gathering not to exceed \$1,500. Trish seconded. Everyone approved. Joe opposed. Motion passed.
- Northeast Chapter (cassi saari): Awarded twelve (12) copies of the book Flora of the Chicago Region to budding botanists, naturalists, habitat restoration volunteers, and students of ecology or conservation-related programs to encourage their personal and/or professional development. A primary goal of this initiative was to reduce the cost barrier to learning about local plants, as, at \$125, the Flora can be cost-prohibitive for many people to purchase on their own. Although we planned to award six books, we received

over 70 entries with an astounding number of worthy nominations. As such, we doubled the number of books awarded to twelve, and we hope to continue this initiative in the future. This effort was made possible in 2022 through a grant from the Paul and Dottie Foundation of DuPage Foundation and the Indiana Academy of Sciences. Members of the Northeast Chapter Board evaluated the entries and awarded copies of the Flora based on nominees' need and passion for learning about the native flora and natural communities of Illinois. <https://illinoisplants.org/flora-giveaway/>

- Hikes organized by Field Trips Coordinator Ali Touloupas took place at Black Partridge Woods, Daniel Wright Woods, Sagawau, Flora Prairie and Beach Cemetery Prairie, Wolf Road Prairie, Spring Lake, and Shoe Factory Prairie.
- We held our Annual Chapter Meeting virtually on August 3rd. A recording is available here https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/oVn6Zt2q5b9M_eVCBqlz6o-z1Se-4pjnzSJIbmzfVM86Vmas_FHHTVgQllbKaOIA.p2CBsG1RXENks3f9?startTime=1659571464000 (Passcode: %Z8Xt6HK) Presentations included:
 - "When is a native not a native? An assessment of pollinator support of native plants and their cultivated varieties" (Imeña Valdes)
 - "Exploring native lawn alternatives and their ecosystem services potential" (Liz Anna Kozik, Becky Barak, Lauren Umek, Rebecca Tonietto)
 - "Using trait diversity and the tree of life to restore tallgrass prairies" (Emma Leavens)
- We will be looking for nominees to fill several board positions, including president, beginning in 2023.

Code of Conduct (Emily and all):

- Background
- Discuss proposed code of conduct for all INPS members. Committee to work on wording? Vote?
- Lots of discussion on the nuances to this, doesn't want this to be a way to cancel people, also needs to be positive/welcoming.
- Floyd wants to strike the line, "if you witness something send an email to INPS," he thinks field trip leader should be aware and folks should be speaking up if they see something or hear something that's unacceptable.
- Floyd sent copies of Forest Preserve District of Will County's [Harassment](#) and [Reprimands](#) Policies as an example of other policies.
- Trish suggested the field leader or Chapter leader handles situations. We need a person of authority to assist with issues as they arise.
- Safety meeting at the start of field trips to discuss Code of Conduct.
- Sign the Code of Conduct with the waiver.
- Or have members check box on membership renewals for approval of the code of conduct.
- Trish, Lailah, Emily, cassi, Floyd volunteered to be on the Code of Conduct committee.

Harbinger Updates (Chris Benda):

- 2013 and 2018 copies of Erigenia have been digitized and will be added to the INPS website.
- Chris will continue editing the Harbinger, but wants to hand over distribution to the INPS for paper mail and/or email. Chris will send Lailah printing details and Excel spreadsheet.
- Chris also welcomes input. He wants to include details on annual gathering to next issue of the Harbinger. Who can help with this? Susanne applauded The Harbinger as a critical communication tool for membership.

Mail Chimp: Professional Email Service:

- 2,000 subscribers is the limit for a free account; how to avoid going to spam?
- Look into this. Kentucky Native Plants Society uses this service. Secretary and Member Services should be involved.

Memorial Donations:

- [Proposed Guidelines](#), and new website changes, for responding to donations to INPS. Susanne explained the development of these guidelines.
- Gretel covered updates to donations on INPS website
- Personal thank you notes for substantial donations and memorial donations. Do we have a cut off amount?
- Suggest notecards or stationery to mail thank you notes.
- Tracking donations, Excel spreadsheet. Lailah to develop and distribute. Need to develop who needs to be notified and who does what. Correspondence secretary? Do we need one? Do we need one? Lailah to work on document.
- Make sure to note who is in charge of what.
- Life Membership [Certificate](#).
- Lydia Davidsmeier donations – Use the donations for her toward a specific purpose? Anna's idea. Produce ideas for how to use donation money. Send family information on donations received.

Bradford Pears—any new updates? None

Previously discussed:

- Trish's letter to the editor could be an INPS blog post. Educational campaign.
- Invasive species in Illinois regulations and INPS action. Long-term goal of petitioning the state to ban the sale of this tree species.
 - Two separate state lists; one for noxious agricultural weeds and the other is determined by the Illinois invasives species council? Check to see if Callery pear is banned in Indiana. Chris Evans to check about the Illinois invasives species council.
 - Nick to meet with Missouri to discuss their buyback program and will let us know what he learns.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:44pm

Next Meeting: September 12th, 6:00pm. Note, Lailah will not be in attendance, but will send a draft agenda prior to meeting.