

**Minutes**  
**ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
**March 13, 2023, 6:00pm | Zoom Meeting**  
**Governing Board Meeting**

Attending: Janine Catchpole, Susanne Masi, Lailah Reich, Joseph Armstrong, Floyd Catchpole, Paul Marcum, Nick Seaton, John Sullivan, Trish Quintenz, Gretel Kiefer, Courtney Cartney, Eric Ulasek, Angela Kerber

Meeting Begins: 6:05 PM

- Review minutes from the [January](#) and [February](#) governing board meetings.
  - Motion to approve January Floyd moved to approve, Nick seconds, all approved. Susanne moved for Feb, Floyd seconded, all approved.
- [Web Report](#) (Gretel): Summary of web use over the past month.
  - Janine mentioned that she found help for Gretel, updates are needed.
  - Minutes to post on the website, TBD.
  - Comments from survey regarding website to site.
  - Floyd needs help with how to update our website too.
  - Nick asked if Tracy has reached out to Gretel about updates for the Southern Chapter.

New Business:

- Correspondence Secretary - Have had discussion about communication. Committee work? Formally listed as an officer or is this a staffed position? The executive board can discuss and decide this.
  - Susanne asked if we would work on a correspondence secretary detailed description of duties. Janine confirmed yes.
- Password Manager: Gretel and Lailah to coordinate on this. Called Keepass.
- Slack request from Chris Benda
  - Slack how-to:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yknvA7QzbfL67YimsXu1WJyYCCZN96m6tm-6rV4BI9c/edit>
  - Potential to train us on this, Gretel to help.
  - Review and then decide going forward.
- Janine mentioned that committees need to be solidified so that organization can be improved upon. We volunteer as staff and as board members. Upcoming introductions to folks who are volunteering to assist the ILNPS state board.
- Discuss criteria for listing native plant sales and nurseries on the INPS website: location (IL & surrounding region), focus (native plants vs. cultivars/non-natives) aka endorsements.
  - Janine asked about how nurseries or IL plant sales are listed, guidelines are online about what requirements there are to be listed. Gretel is sent the form and she approves.
  - Eric: How to deal with non-natives being sold as natives? Could we have members check? Targeted questions for confirmation of certain species?
  - Do we include adjacent states? That could be complicated.
  - Do we need a committee to solve this? Janine mentioned the program standing committee?

- Ideas about adding educational items to our native plant sales/nurseries, buyer beware section?
- Could we give a rating system or starred system? Some nurseries will be rated higher than others.
- From Janine: “I think our nursery list should only include nurseries that offer straight species, not cultivars, as the majority of plants offered by a nursery. Any listing of invasive species, from the Illinois Noxious or Exotic species list or on watch lists prepared by groups like Midwest Invasive Plant Network should kick them off our list. Any inclusion of nurseries that do not truly understand why we are concerned about such plant offerings cheapens the hard work and investment by dedicated native plant nurseries that track provenance of seed and plants they offer.

I think we should develop a statement as such to let nurseries understand our standards. Websites certainly help us ascertain a nursery's focus but we could prepare a questionnaire about their product line to be filled out before being listed. It would give us a place to start.”

Draft Questions for Nursery Applicants:

1. What percent of plant products sold by your nursery are native species?
  2. Do you have provenance sources for native plants sold by your nursery?
    - a. The ILNPS recommends a standard of.... provenance be: state, ecoregion within state and county in that state.
  3. Does your nursery carry native plant cultivars?
  4. Does your nursery sell plants currently listed on the Illinois State Noxious and Exotic Weed list, [Illinois Noxious Weeds](#) or species on the watchlist prepared by the [Midwest Invasive Plant Network](#).
- Financial Tracking Local Chapters (Courtney)
    - Training for new Chapter Treasurers and Presidents
    - 2022 Chapter financial statements. Need Chapter Presidents to get a 2022 financial statement, Janine asked Courtney to reach out to Chapter presidents for what she needs and whether they need training.
    - Annual taxes to be filed in May - need additional information from Chapters to do so.
  - Becoming a Rated Charity (Floyd)
    - File 990 Form for three years, then we can be rated.
    - There are a number of other items that increase the score and are mostly good practices that we should consider.
    - This seems like a committee item.
    - Lnk to the most widespread charity rating service [Ratings | Charity Navigator](#).
    - Janine would like us to pursue this.
    - SER is interested in working with INPLS locally. Will go to the executive committee for discussion.
  - Bell Bowl Prairie position paper. Eric would like help fine tuning the paper. Cassi to review, Lailah can review with NEPA angle. Cassi posted something about this previously. Paul Marcum Rob Tellner? Works for Morton Arboretum.

## Old Business:

- Email Access for executive board members (Lailah) - Gmail delegates to allow executive board members access to the state Gmail account. Unread emails IMPORTANT for tracking tasks.
- Marta is stepping away from assisting Chris with design and layout of the Harbinger.
  - Does Chris now need a new designer to assist?
- 2023 IEC Affiliate Membership Renewal - Paul moves to update membership, Trish seconds, all were in favor. Chris Benda has typically renewed, so let him know. Updated by Courtney.
- Members - Spreadsheet of members city and state and chapter - membership directory access to everyone for networking. Anna to work on sorting members by County/Chapter and then we can reach out to them to see who wants to be listed online. Keep on for next month.
- Lifetime Memberships Protocols - Send out a certificate to new lifetime members.
  - Acknowledgements need to be determined.
  - Review template for lifetime memberships and discuss during the March meeting. Keep on next month's agenda.
- Lydia Davidsmeier Donation Money (Floyd and Trish): Trish is coordinating a plan. Site steward to coordinate spring planting in 2024.
  - Spring plug planting for INPS to host?
  - To occur in spring of 2024?
- Updates on 2023 Annual Gathering - Chris Benda is providing ideas for field trips, Shoal Creek, Horn Prairie, Doug Tallamy talk and book signings, Grants will be Friday evening, silent auction? Trish said registration will be out in June or July. Save the date is coming.
  - Members plus one for Doug Tallamy talk.
  - Gretel will post on the website Save the Date.
- Mail Chimp and Harbinger Delivery (Paid Version \$26.50/month) - are there other options aside from Mail Chimp? Dan, Chris, and Floyd to look into this: [7 Best Mailchimp Alternatives of 2023 \(Better Features + Free\)](#). Keep on the March agenda. Keep on April agenda? Floyd wants to know if we can take the spreadsheet of members and create one email. Look into Sender
- Post minutes to website, last posted November 2020.
  - Jeff emailed instructions on how to post minutes to the website but all links need to be disabled first. Gretel to implement as soon as feasible.
- Brian Anderson to provide minutes for board retreat. Floyd to email notes within the next few days.
  - Ad hoc committees for next meeting
- Lailah motioned to increase Google storage drive, Gretel seconded, all approved. Courtney to pay for storage now that this has been approved by the board.
- Gretel mentioned the Great Gardens Conference email; wants to know how we decide what emails are sent to all members state-wide.

Meeting Adjourned: Floyd moved to adjourn, Trish seconded all in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:33PM

Next Meeting: April 10th, 2023, 6:00PM