



# Illinois Native Plant Society

*Illinois Native Plant Society*

P.O. Box 60694, Chicago, IL 60660

## Minutes State Governing Board Meeting August 12, 2024

**Call to Order:** By Emily at 6:01PM

**Board Members and Guests Present:** Becky Croteau, Carolyn Villa, Eric Ulaszek, Emily Dangremond, Trish Quintenz, Daniel Pohl, Susanne Masi, Paul Marcum, Floyd Catchpole, Mark Kluge, Nick Seaton, Nancy Smith

**Quorum present, yes/no?** Yes.

- Review draft minutes from July meeting
  - July meeting [minutes](#)
  - Becky motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Carolyn seconded. All approved.
- Wilhelm Symposium:
  - Susanne provided a summary of the symposium. She thought it was well worth it to attend. Almost 20 INPS members were in attendance. INPS had a table and a banner, copies of Harbinger, Erygenia, etc. Focused on Wilhelm and his development of the FQA program. Renowned botanists were in attendance. Field trips were excellent.
  - Paul mentioned a 2026 conference in New Harmony IN and maybe a Great Lakes/Midwest Botanist consortium.
  - The INPS should stay abreast of this for future opportunities.
  - **Paul and Susanne will send photos for Harbinger for October 1<sup>st</sup>.** That is the deadline for fall 2024.
- Annual Gathering
  - Recap/debrief:
    - Emily touching base about accounting and transfer of funds for this. Becky said Mark should have the check from Becky by now. He said, arrived last Friday and will be deposited soon.
    - Becky overpaid the NE Chapter slightly due to the Square fees which are 1.75% so we overpaid by \$59. Should the state board cover the fees? Emily said she thinks it makes sense for the state to cover the fees, credit card fees, Square fees.
    - Trish made a motion that all fees associated with Annual Gathering are covered by the state board for the 2024 gathering and moving forward. Emily seconded; all were in favor. Approved by the board.
  - Next year's host:

- Planning Committee: There will be a new committee for planning the annual gathering. Emily recommends that one member from each state chapter will be included.
  - Emily mentioned there are a lot of tools already developed in our state drive that can be helpful with this.
  - Forest Glen or the Southern Chapter would host next year. Nick will talk with his chapter to see, and Paul mentioned Nick may be in better shape to host in 2025 anyway.
  - Ways to improve for 2025: The board should be in attendance. How to encourage all board members to attend and how to create more excitement for members.
  - Paul mentioned he couldn't attend because he needed more notice and couldn't register.
  - Lailah mentioned advanced notice, even knowing dates by spring before summer would be helpful.
  - Free access to Google Workspace for saving photos. **Lailah can look into that. Don't want to waste space with too many large files, but may want a good solid place to save our high quality flora photos.**
  - Nick said his chapter has a symposium in April annually and maybe that could be combined with annual gathering.
  - **Each Chapter should recruit one person for the annual gathering committee.**
- Secretary: Lailah is stepping down and Nancy is sitting in on the meeting to potentially fill this role.
- Website-Kate Ahrens: Mail Chimp exceeds the limit of what we would need for free.
  - Word Fence does not have nonprofit pricing. See email from Becky to board on 8/12/2024 on 5:31PM for full details. Looking into security options for our website.
  - Trish recommended doing a proposal to see what Becky finds and vote by email.
    - Floyd motions to allocate \$500 for web security program of Kate's recommendation. Paul seconded. All were in favor. Motion approved.
- (if any updates): Request to fund Dr. Mark Widrlechner's work to annotate the vast majority of ILL and ILLS *Rubus* specimens from Illinois at least to section, if not to species
  - Food and lodging costs for this stay, plus any parking fees and project-related supplies. Estimate total expenses to be in the range of \$750, definitely not exceeding \$1000.
  - Committee that is working on Eric, Floyd, Susanne, and Paul are all supportive of this proposal.
  - Deliverables would be Excel spreadsheet with annotated specimens, updated report, highlighting interesting things, rare and unknown taxa in Illinois. Will share data with INPS. Will write an article for the Harbinger as well.
  - Paul mentioned Mark may be open to writing an article for both the Harbinger and Eryngia, which would be amazing.
  - Mark also mentioned he could lead a workshop on *Rubus* as a separate proposal. Costs would cover his travel, meals, expenses for the workshop only likely.
  - Contract needs both parties to sign and date.
  - Use official state rates and per diem rates would make things simple, as recommended by Becky. Different than the non-profit rates.
  - INPS will create a new contract to work with Dr. Widrlechner's.

- Becky motioned to approve the revised proposal by Dr. Widrlechner's to annotate Rubus specimens. Paul seconded motion, all approved.
- Heartlands Conservancy Hill Prairie Monroe County  
<https://heartlandsconservancy.org/support/save-the-prairie/>
  - Southern chapter donated.
  - Heartlands has been very active over the past 5 to 10 years in Illinois.
  - Carolynn motioned to donate \$1K, Paul seconded, all were in favor.
  - **Floyd mentioned that we should mention this donation in the next Harbinger and Carolyn will send an email to let them know on behalf of the INPS we are donating.**
  - **Becky will send donation by end of this week.**
- Treasurer-Becky Croteau (if any updates):
  - Total funds on hand ~72K
  - PayPal is still there, but most moved out.
  - Most money is also moved from Square into our PNC account.
  - Send money to Indiana Academy for Wilhelm symposium.
  - Spent ~12K since last meeting.
    - Concerns: Payouts to chapters is confusing currently, Kate should be involved with conversation.
    - Membership report should be provided each quarter by membership chair.
    - Becky needs to know what percent of dues coming in need to go to each Chapter.
    - Membership Excel spreadsheet issues with automation, will be instated, but until then hard to know when the membership file is actually current.
    - Becky asked to put her first on the agenda moving forward. She has other commitments at the same time. Discussed meeting earlier and on a different date.
- Membership-Kelsay Shaw (if any updates) – Kelsay not present.
- Rotate person to respond to/forward/delegate INPS emails – Emails aren't too bad to manage typically. Lailah mentioned executive committee can use this too. May be helpful for Becky for Square receipts and other things for Webmaster, receipts, receipts, receipts.
- Wild Things March 1, 2025, at Rosemont Convention Center should we have a table? To be discussed next meeting.
- Any other business – reinstate chapter reports, treasury reports, and membership reports.
- Next meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Chapter reports
- Membership report

Meeting adjourned 7:34PM by Emily.