

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Meeting #17 for the NJ Flora Project

*The following minutes are summary notes for 7/08 meeting:*

The meeting commenced as a conference call at 10 AM sharp. Participants called into a call center (FreeConference.com) and logged onto the assigned conference #. This included: Wayne Ferren, Stevens Heckscher, Janet Novak, Russell Juelg, Linda Rohleder and Joe Arsenault.

The meeting purpose: Quarterly progress reports and new business.

Joe assumed the moderator position to provide smooth discussion between phone conference participants.

#### Old and New Business/Group News

1. Dr. David Fairbrothers has continued requesting the University administrators to move the herbarium to a space better suited to its preservation and use. He continues to discuss the need for full herbarium staffing for obvious reasons.
2. Robin Jess is still interested in the illustration effort, but has not yet assembled her art group to discuss the details. She will keep us posted as she progresses.
3. Dr. Jim Montgomery checked in to say we should keep him posted on any issues relevant to ferns and other like species.
4. Dr. Lena Struwe has lots of good news. First, the herbarium will be moving to a new building on Jones Avenue, New Brunswick (edge of Cook College)! This new location should solve many existing problems such as parking, access, etc. It would be in the same building as the entomological collection and landscape architects. It will not happen right away, but would happen as the building is repaired and readied for occupants. Another good news item, the herbarium received a \$30,000 grant from the Beneficial Foundation to buy the digital equipment and hire a manager to start photographing the collection. The project would start with rare species and proceed to invasive species; both have immediate possible uses because of their implications to land use and management. Eventually, these would be available on-line. On a different topic, Dr. Struwe indicated a donation of native plants 1,000 slides. Apparently few are labeled, so an effort is needed to identify. FNJ member are asked to donate efforts to label the slides. These would be available for use for FNJ's projects. Wow!

#### Committee Reports:

- **Funding:** Joe Arsenault –Our bank account as of 6/30/08 is \$352.34. We have an additional \$15 cash for a total of \$367.34 available cash. Those who have not paid the 2008 dues should pay as soon as possible to replenish the account for future expenses.
- **Executive:** Joe Arsenault –A meeting with the incorporation attorney, Mr. Robert Wiltsee, finalized our incorporation status. He indicated we need a set of by-laws specifically for our group. Currently, we are working off a standard incorporation by-laws text. Joe will draft a set for the executive committee to review and finally

by the members at large. All of our documentation has be left in the lawyer's office for safety reasons.

- Outreach: Joe Arsenault –We have one new member, Mr. Rick Radis. Rick is a well known botanist and a welcome member. Rick will bring addition knowledge of the State to our fledgling effort.
- Nomenclature Committee: Bill Olson-Bill was unable to log onto the phone conference call. A verbal report indicates no one submitted new nomenclature reviews as of July. Bill presses the need for everyone who signed up for a plant group to get their names to Bill as soon as possible. Once his committee approves the names they can be placed on the web and continue to build our modern flora nomenclature.
- Atlas Committee: Matt Palmer, chair was in the field and unable to attend.
- Manual Committee: Wayne Ferren-A reminder to everyone involved in the Manual Introduction: ***the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for the geographic, physiographic and historical paragraphs is fast approaching.*** Please complete the brief summaries that will support the floristic keys and descriptions. Wayne requested assistance with manual introduction editing once it is assembled. We'll need to blend the various voices into one coherent text. Anyone interested should contact Wayne as soon as possible. Additionally, Wayne reminds participants to follow the manual guideline instructions as written, no deviations! Please e-mail questions before submission if you have questions to eliminate extensive corrections and editing.
- IT/WEB Committee: Janet Novak-The *Panicum* nomenclature and synonymy has been finally edited is now posted on the web page.

#### **The 2008 calendar year meetings remaining:**

- General (executive and committee) meetings to be held via telephone conference calling: ***October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008.***
- Work Dates: ***No work dates are scheduled for the summer months.*** Dates will set for the remainder of 2008 and the first ¼ of 2009 during the October meeting. The herbarium has new access codes and requirements. Anyone requiring access should contact Dr. Lena Struwe, Mr. Shasa Eisenman or the FNJ chairman.

The meeting adjourned ~ 10:55 AM.

A quick assessment found this telephone method was an appropriate way to hold meeting where face-to-face contact is not absolutely necessary. Although a recording of the meeting is available, a written text was requested. Our only snafu was the omission of two members who tried to log on but due to technical reasons could not. I will attempt to eliminate any technical problems before the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Anyone interested in an audio recording can receive an electronic copy upon request. Joe Arsenault 9/2008.

Prepared 9/19/08 by-Joe Arsenault, 961 Clark Ave, Franklinville, NJ 08322,  
[NJPlants@AOL.Com](mailto:NJPlants@AOL.Com), Facsimile 856-697-6050, telephone 856-697-6044.