

# FLORA OF NEW JERSEY PROJECT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

Chrysler Herbarium, Rutgers University

February 18, 2012

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Attachments: Agenda and 2011 Progress Report

Attending: Joe Arsenault (Chair), Stevens Heckscher (Vice-chair), Wayne Ferren (Treasurer), Bill Olson, Matt Palmer, and members Ann Hoffenberg and Robin Jess.

Election of officers and Amendments to the Bylaws:

Nominations were made by Matt Palmer and seconded by Stevens Heckscher, proposing the new Board of Directors as follows:

Chair:	Joe Arsenault
Vice –chair:	Stevens Heckscher
Corresponding Secretary:	Bill Olson
Recording Secretary:	Wayne Ferren
Treasurer:	Matt Palmer

A vote by the membership will be solicited requesting approval of the slate of officers.

A copy of the Bylaws was made available to each participant for review and discussion. A suggestion was made by Wayne Ferren that the one year term of officers be changed to a three year team to provide consistency. All agreed. Stevens made a motion to change the Bylaws to from one-year to three-year teams for officers. The motion was seconded by Bill Olson. The motion requires approval by a vote of the membership.

Old Business: Review provided by the Chair and others.

- Web site is up and receives positive feedback.
- 2011 Tax forms files electronically for State and Federal.
- Bank statement shows a total of \$460.70.
- Annual membership remains \$20.00. Checks should be made out to: “Flora of New Jersey Project”.
- There are a total of 12 paying members.
- Outreach: via website only at present. We are becoming the voice advocating for the flora of New Jersey!
- Bill: Suggested we need a one-page statement about the FNJ to help attract memberships/dollars.
- Ann: NJ Flower Show was yesterday, Could have a brochure to handout at events like this.
- Wayne: Fieldtrips to be co-lead by Joe with the Philadelphia Botanical Club and Torrey Botanical Club are a great idea. Could also include the Rancocas Conservancy for those relevant to that particular watershed.

Committee Reports:

- Atlas and Website: Matt provided an update on activities associated with the FNJ Atlas. Submissions are low. Only website products have been submitted. He encouraged members to make contributions and then adapt them as needed. All adopted lists need to be added to the website to show productivity. We received an email from Michael Stanton offering to provide Atlantic County records to update some of the species accounts. Users will be interested and it will attract additional visits to the site. On current issues – you can’t link a posting (list) with an atlas page. Users won’t know about the lists if they just check the atlas! We need a visible webpage way for users to know that both the atlas and the list exist.

Joe indicated there are 10 to 15 people per day that visit the website. There have been 500 novel users. Bill asked if someone associated with other botanical sites such as Cornell could help? Matt suggested perhaps a Wikipedia type software could be used so each member could add contributions and edits. Stevens plans to submit a second ecological paper for posting. Wayne will complete the edit regarding a paper on botanical

rarity he co-authored with Bill Olson and Russell Juelg and submit it for posting.

- Manual: No submissions to date. Important progress regarding submission of family lists to the Nomenclature Committee, so there is evidence of overall progress, but we need to go from checklists of genera and species to treatments for the manual. Joe stated we need an update to the "Guidelines for Contributors". Wayne brought a copy of the newly published second edition of *The Jepson Manual of the Higher Plants of California* to demonstrate it is possible to achieve large projects, although several hundred people assisted with TJM! Wayne reminded everyone we have permission from the editors of the FNA project to use published treatments as a source for producing FNJ treatments. Our less skilled members could be instructed on how to use this approach to provide a checklist for NJ and also a manual treatment with keys and descriptions.
- Nomenclature: Bill has been working on the larger species of *Eleocharis*. Wayne expressed interest in the smaller species. Bill also has been working on *Carex*. One of Lena Struwe's graduate students, Lauren Spitz, has agreed to contribute the Gentianaceae, and has submitted an initial checklist, which is thorough and also includes citations for many type specimens. This is an important new contribution. Matt is continuing to work on the Ranunculaceae. Stevens plans to submit the Aquifoliaceae soon.

#### New Business:

- The chair led a discussion on fund raising possibilities such as from foundations including Duke and Dodge. He requested the officers take the lead on fund raising and meeting with potential donors. Example projects include managing the FNJ website, field work, preparation of the manual, etc. Matt indicated our connection with Rutgers is our most important asset. Perhaps we could fund graduate students to help with FNJ? We should start small and work our way to larger efforts. We need list of tasks that are well articulated and perhaps narrow in context. Other possibilities include the Henry Foundation and Chanticleer Foundation, the latter of which has been funding the FNA volumes. The chair also suggested consulting firms, businesses, and the Home Builders League might provide assistance.

### Contributing Botanical Artists:

Robin and Ann gave a report on their group and interest in the FNJ Project.

- The discussion included posting illustrations on the web, if copyright could be protected. Large-scale scans need to be made to post, but at a lower resolution so they would not be copied. They will need assistance with this. Rutgers may be able to help with the scanning process.
- The artist's group does not have their own website, so perhaps a pull-down page on our website could be made available for their use through FNJ.
- The group would like their work more integrated into the project, such as posted among items on lists, etc.

### Other Business:

- Reminder for folks to renew their memberships.
- Send in PDFs of website updates, new articles, and other submissions.
- Newsletter: need contributions regarding what we have accomplished, news, noteworthy collections, etc.