

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Meeting #16 for the NJ Flora Project

The following minutes are summary notes for 4/08 meeting that was held in the Chrysler Herbarium, Douglas Campus Rutgers University.

The meeting commenced at 10 AM at the Rutgers University Chrysler Herbarium. Participants included: Bill Olson, Stevens Heckscher, and Joe Arsenault.

The meeting was called to order at 10AM with 3 members present. The meeting purpose is to inform the group committee-level progress to date.

NOTICE: The next meeting, July 12, 2008, will be a conference call. With the ever increasing cost of gasoline, in an effort to reduce our individual expenses, we will hold our next meeting via using telephone conference call service. The call will occur at our standard 10AM meeting time. Joe will act as the monitor and keep the meeting to the agenda topics. The conference telephone number and access code will be provided a week or so before the next meeting date. This will provide personal input without the need to travel into New Brunswick.

After these topic discussions, we heard reports from Committee Chairpersons:

- Executive/Funding/Outreach: Joe Arsenault – The Flora Project is now officially a non-profit corporation! We received our corporate status April 21st. This will allow us to open a new bank account and a whole lot more! Our bank account has a balance of \$310.16 as a result of the \$750 fee associated with the State incorporation and lawyer's fees. As of April 26th, we had 11 paid members. Those who have not paid the 2008 dues should pay as soon as possible to replenish the account for future expenses.
- Nomenclature Committee: Bill Olson-There have been no new nomenclature review requests since the last meeting other than Wayne Ferren's Amaranth work. Bill is currently working on the Asteraceae names and is currently documenting *Viola*. Stevens reports the hollies are underway and should be done soon.
- Atlas Committee: Matt Palmer, chair was in the field with a class and unable to attend. *Panicum* atlas pages have been submitted and are under review.
- Manual Committee: Wayne Ferren-reports no new manual revisions. He does want to remind manual participants the December 31st deadline for the introduction paragraphs is fast approaching. Please complete the brief summaries for background information that will support the floristic keys and descriptions.
- IT/WEB Committee: Janet Novak was not able to attend. The *Panicum* nomenclature and synonymy has been posted on the web page.

New Business: Mike Van Clef, a supporting member, informed the group there will be a Bio-blitz at South Mountain Reservation in Essex County June 21, 2008. He will be a plant team leader and is searching for volunteer botanists to help with the effort. Anyone interested participating in this event should contact Mike at 908-528-6674 or www.njecologicalsolutions.com for more information, times and directions.

Dr. Stevens Heckscher will be donating approximately 2000 digital photographs! Stevens is cataloging his collection and will be willing to allow our group use his high quality photos to illustrate the atlas web pages. He is currently in the process of scanning the images. He will make the complete collection available within about 3 years, so anyone proposing a web page should check with Stevens to see if he has a shot of your species!

The 2008 calendar year meetings remaining:

- General (executive and committee) meetings to be held via telephone conference calling: *July 12th and October 18th, 2008.*
- Work Dates: *No work dates are scheduled for the summer months.* Anyone requiring access should contact the FNJ chairman.

The meeting adjourned ~ 12:30 PM.

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