

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Meeting #19 for the NJ Flora Project

*The following minutes are summary notes for 2/09 meeting:*

The first meeting of calendar year 2009 commenced at the Chrysler Herbarium at 10 AM sharp. Participants included: Wayne Ferren Jr., Bill and Eleanor Standaert, Matt Palmer, Stevens Heckscher, Ted Gordon, Bill Olson and Joe Arsenault.

The meeting purpose: FNJ Annual meeting to comply with NJ incorporation responsibilities as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter reports provide progress and new business.

**Incorporation Business:** Our NJ incorporation requires we have a yearly board meeting when elections are held to fill the positions of president/chairperson, vice chairperson, treasurer and secretary. After a discussion, we decided to fill the Chairperson and vice chairperson, leaving the election of treasurer and secretary until the next meeting. A vote was called and the members unanimously re-instated Joe Arsenault and Dr. Stevens Heckscher as our chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. A second motion was made to make the February Meeting our yearly re-organization meeting. After accepting the motion, the members present agreed with the unanimous affirmative vote. By-laws became the next incorporation topic. Joe presented a sample abstracted from other professional organizations as a template. A decision was made to have Joe correct the few items discussed at the meeting with a new draft to be discussed during the April 18<sup>th</sup> telephone conference meeting. A third motion was made to make TD-Commerce Bank our financial home. TD-Commerce has branches throughout the state making it accessible to all members. A third unanimous vote made TD-Commerce the official bank of FNJ Project Inc. On another FNJ item, we were informed a gift may be available from a philanthropic organization but we must become a non-profit Inc. to receive the donation. Bill Olson and Bill Standaert will discuss the filing and other formalities with their accountants once Joe sends some basic information about the process.

Associated Group News

1. Robin Jess continues to organize the botanical artist. The Botanical Artists will be working with FNJ to produce original art that would be available for the Atlas or Manual use. Robin continues to be in close contact with FNJ to coordinate this effort.

Committee Reports:

- **Funding:** Joe Arsenault –Our bank account has a balance of \$447.80 as of the time of the meeting. It was decided to change the bank account from the name of the chairperson to the incorporated name. The account would be a checking account in the name Flora of New Jersey Project, Inc. This task will be accomplished by the April meeting.
- **Membership:** Joe Arsenault- The FNJ has three new members, all from the Botanical Artist Group. Members are notified the 2009 dues would be payable after the first of the year. A discussion on membership ended by having Bill Olson take the responsibility of this task to advance our membership and keeping

better contact with our current members. Joe will send Bill all information about the membership for his use.

- Outreach: Joe Arsenault –An invitation was made by the FNJ chair to participate in the review of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife’s Wildlife Action Plan. We were asked to participate to provide an independent floristic component to the review process. A NJ flora friend, Dr. Rob Naczi, has expressed interest in our group. Hopefully, we can convince Rob to join our cause. Dr. Stevens Heckscher agreed to assist Joe Arsenault on Outreach efforts.
- Nomenclature Committee: Bill Olson-The nomenclature committee has reviewed Dr. Walt Bien’s Ericaceae, and will publish the nomenclature after a few genera names are clarified. Bill continues to requests those members working on a plant group to send the proposed nomenclature to Bill for review before any work effort is expended to detail a plant. Ongoing reviews are in progress for: “*Aster*” groups, *Viola*, *Rhynchospora*, *Aristida*, *Scleria*, and *Xyris*.
- Atlas Committee: Matt Palmer, chair indicated not much new has been done on the Atlas. He is anticipating the *Panicum* pages would be our next addition to the web page. He also requested the nomenclature committee to send completed nomenclatures so they can be edited for the atlas. As everyone knows, the Atlas and IT committees should work closely with the Nomenclature chair to be sure any new family/genus/species assignments can be posted on the web to show our ongoing work in progress. On a related topic, Matt suggests we schedule joint field trips with Torrey and PBC for atlas and distribution surveys.
- Manual Committee: Wayne Ferren, chairperson; Wayne reset the introductory chapter submissions for the Manual to ***December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009***. On the Manual text, one family description has been finalized with keys. This would be sent to the Atlas and IT chairs for web posting. Wayne also described the results of his presentation on new *Sueda* species to the California Conference on Flora. He linked this work with our efforts and suggested we could sponsor such an event of similar scope for NJ.
- IT/WEB Committee: Janet Novak-The chair was not able to attend the meeting. Janet is editing the *Panicum* atlas pages for posting. The Web membership page has been updated for 2009.
- Newsletter: Joe will be assembling a second issue of our newsletter. Anyone wishing to add a note should send information to Joe ASAP. So far we have a few submissions, so let’s keep them coming.

**The 2009 calendar year meetings have been set:**

- General meetings to be held via telephone conference calling: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009; July 19, 2009 (**7PM start time**), October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- All meetings start at 10AM unless published otherwise.
- Herbarium Work Dates: **March 28; April 25; May 16, 2009.**

The meeting adjourned ~ 12:30 AM. The assembled group then spent about ½ hour, until ~1:00PM vacuuming, sweeping and cleaning the herbarium floors and tables.

Prepared 03/18/2009 by-Joe Arsenault, 961 Clark Ave, Franklinville, NJ 08322, [NJPlants@AOL.Com](mailto:NJPlants@AOL.Com), Facsimile 856-697-6050, telephone 856-697-6044.