

Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association

124th Directors and Membership Semi-Annual Meeting

Botanica Gardens, Wichita, KS

October 7, 2023

Call to Order

- The SWROGA Directors and Membership meeting was held both in person and via Zoom in the Botanica Gardens, Wichita, KS.
- President, Connie Koehler, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM(Saturday) and welcomed all officers and directors as they acknowledged attendance. Thanks were given to the Kansas Orchid Society for hosting the Fall SWROGA show.
- Connie Koehler reported the presence of a quorum with 10 societies represented and a total of 11 directors in attendance including the officers shown below.

Officers present:

President: Connie Koehler

Vice President: Sarah Pratt

Treasurer: Charles Hess via Zoom

Secretary: Larry Baker via Zoom

Member at Large: Jana Butcher

Officers absent:

Editor: Vacant

Remembrance:

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the following member:

Alan Koch Oklahoma Orchid Society

Jerry Brown Arkansas Orchid Society

Approval of minutes:

Connie asked for corrections or additions to the March 11, 2023 meeting minutes previously emailed to all directors and society presidents, officers, and committee chairs. Sarah Pratt moved to approve and accept the minutes. Charles Hess seconded, and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Charles Hess

The Annual Financial Report consisting of the SWROGA Account Balances and SWROGA cash flow was distributed to SWROGA officers and directors on October 1 for reference in this meeting.

Highlights are as follows:

- Since February, money markets earned interest began increasing from 0.1% to now around 2.0%. This has been a significant boost to our Arvest Money Market earnings.
- CD yields have also gone up as seen in the \$7,000 ,14-month CD earning 5.25% interest both in our Endowed Trophy Fund and our Research Fund.
- Our SWROGA Operating Fund is very healthy with \$9000 invested with 4.85% dividends and room for \$10,000 more cash available for investing. This fund received donations from the Oklahoma Orchid society of \$100 and \$50 from Larry Baker (GBOS). The Cash Flow for the operating fund is over \$1000 a year available for SWROGA committee needs.
- New this fiscal year are the SWROGA Show Trophy Fund and the SWROGA Show Tag Fund, both of which receive income from the respective sale of Show Trophies and Show tags. These funds will hold the monies for periodic replacement purchases as needed.
- New this year for the SWROGA Endowed Trophy Fund are outflows entries showing the internal transfer of the Show Trophy costs (\$60 each). This transfer will now reimburse the Show Trophy Fund for the costs of SWROGA providing these two trophies at no cost to SWROGA show hosting societies. In the past, the general fund paid these costs.
- Our Federal Tax 990 Return has been filed for the fiscal year just ended 30 September 2023.



Connie asked for approval of the Treasurer's report. Jana Butcher moved to accept the report and Mike Friday seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

AOS report:

No report.

Old Business:

Officers for 2024 Spring Meeting

Connie Koehler stated that officers will be voted on at the spring meeting. Asking for 3 volunteers to nominate slate of officers.

Website

Show tag form is on the website for electronic copies. This will mostly replace paper tags but not entirely.

SWROGA Procedure Revisions

Connie thanked Jana Butcher, Bill Parker, Barb McNamee, and Jim Diffily for the work of updating procedures. Sarah Pratt moved to accept the updated procedures and Mike Friday seconded. Motion was approved.

New Business:

Youth Exhibit on SWROGA Show Schedule

Eron Borne discussed a youth exhibit trophy for the SWROGA schedule. It is currently done at a few local shows. Jana Butcher suggested reviewing with Alison Galloway and bringing a written proposal for voting at the Spring Meeting.

Newsletter

Eron Borne has the form used by former editor Rex Ulmer for the SWROGA Newsletter. He is asking for the newsletter to be revived. A new Editor is needed. There will be further offline discussion.

Electronic Judging Sheet

Agreed to add discussion of an Electronic Judging Sheet to the next meeting.

Spring SWROGA meeting

Connie stated Central East Texas Orchid Society is willing to host Directors Meeting at their show on Friday April 5th and Saturday April 6th, 2024 per Erica Dunn. (Subsequent to this meeting, approval was given for the Houston Orchid Society to host the spring 2024 Directors Meeting.)

Funding to provide stipends for students in conservation research including a memorial fund

Charles Hess announced that our first use of a stipend concept will be going to Cedar Ridge Preserve to support their 2024 Hexalectris survey season. The Preserve will arrange with the **Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)** for 40 hours effort by one of BRIT's summer interns at the BRIT's standard intern hourly rate of \$25/hour.

Charles proposed that the initial stipend efforts be covered by the Texas Instruments Foundation matching gifts and volunteer reimbursement programs for 501c3 organizations. However, to sustain this long term, the Conservation Committee:

- (1) Hold an annual fundraising drive to remind our membership of the need for annual donations that can be invested to sustain current stipend levels and
- (2), Create a memorial fund with proceeds going to support conservation.

For the annual fundraiser (1 above), various suggestions from the directors were put forth as a trial test run and were agreed to:

- Provide talking points for the directors to take back to their societies as part of their SWROGA meeting updates announcing this new fundraiser.
- Provide talking points on the two orchid habitats we support and how our distributions are being used.
- Emphasize the importance of orchid protection in the face of habitat loss.

Additional ideas suggested by the directors and agree to:

- Use our Smithsonian NAOCC Orchid Gami inventory as thank you gifts for societies that participate in the annual drive.
- Provide societies with a conservation display (in kit form) that can be used at their shows to promote additional fundraising. Mike Friday and Charles Hess are to work together on this for the OOS show in May. Use Orchid Gami as thank you gifts there.
- Notify societies at SWROGA dues time (January) that they may include individual and society donations with their annual dues submission to the SWROGA Treasurer.

The second part of this proposal is to establish a “**Dr. Lawrence Magrath Memorial Fund**”:

- A list of deceased society members would be added following his poem of remembrance found in our SWROGA Directory.
- This would provide a means for societies to keep in our memories the names of deceased members who were of special significance to the society's membership.

- People to be recognized would be added through a donation of any amount to support orchid conservation and put in a fund named in Dr. Magrath's honor (currently recognized by an Endowed Trophy for Class 948 Best Orchid Conservation Exhibit).

Jana Butcher requested that the full details be put into a Procedure and sent out ahead of our next board meeting in time to be included in the agenda for discussion and approval.

Announcements:

- None

Committee Reports:

ByLaws and Judiciary Committee -

Chair: Jana Butcher

None.

Finance Committee:

Chair: Charles Hess

The Finance Report was issued separately on October 1.

Conservation Committee

Chair: Charles Hess

Fort Worth Orchid Society

First, a shout-out to the **Ft Worth Orchid Society** and to **Dottie Woodson**, both key to the success of the **Fort Worth Botanic Garden's** (first) biennial "**World of Orchids**" gala 6-week attraction event this last spring. Through Dottie's suggestion (and influence!), we were allocated a display space for highlighting SWROGA's **Watson Rare native Plant Preserve** project as well as the **Cedar Ridge Preserve's** *Hexalectris* orchids population.

Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve (Watson Preserve)

Again, and for the last 6 years, the **Orchid Society of the Ozarks** has been a very generous donor making possible our adoption and much needed financial support for the **Watson Preserve**.

Cedar Ridge Preserve (CRP)

The original research through 20 years of Hexalectris surveys was completed (and the university support moved on after several technical papers were finished).

A team was formed to develop new goals and ideas for enhancing the focus on, and the protection of, their unique population of orchids at Cedar Ridge Preserve. As a member of the team, SWROGA offered Research stipends to draw talent from local universities and research establishments.

This search led to the Botanical **Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)** where staff were already familiar with the preserve. And even more fortunate, their **Summer Intern Research program** turned out to be an ideal source for student participation. Arrangements have been made for a part time intern (40-hour, \$1000 stipend) for the 2024 program. This has the bonus of potential new ideas as the Summer Intern Program is part of the BRIT's Research program for endangered species in Texas.

Affiliated Societies:

No report.

Chair: Vacant

Programs and Education Committee

Chair: Eron Borne

Eron Borne is the new chair of the committee. He asked that directors query their societies for any programs that can be incorporated into the SWROGA library.

Publications Committee:

No report.

Chair: Vacant

Show Committee:

No report.

Chair: Alison Gallaway

Closing:

- Jana Butcher thanked Kansas Orchid Society again for hosting the Directors Meeting.
- Meeting concluded at 2:12 pm

Respectfully signed and submitted with substantial assistance by Charles Hess, Treasurer,

Larry Baker, Secretary