

**Nature Printing Society - Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC**  
**October 3, 2023**

**1. Welcome: Sue Fierston, NPS President, at 7:35p.m. PDT and 4:35 pm EDT.**

Welcome to the first hybrid NPS Annual Meeting! I am recording the meeting on Zoom and will post it on the NPS Website next week when I return home. Thank you for attending this annual meeting. (Audio did not come through on Zoom)

**2. Approval of 2022 NPS Annual Meeting Minutes held virtually over Zoom on October 16, 2022, as published in the 2022 Fall Newsletter:**

Sue Fierston motioned to approve, Christy Dewees seconded, no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Thank You's - Sue:**

A. Awesome to see you! First meeting since 2019.

B. Thanks to Nate Garrett, Coleen O'Connell, Bee Shay for planning two Acadia workshops that never happened in the end.

C. As President since 2020, we have created online platforms: Show and Tell, Printing Prompt and LEAP Live to keep people involved during the pandemic but nothing compares to seeing you all in person tonight. I'm all about teaching, I'm a generalist, I love to learn all kinds of printing techniques and combine them to pass on to people...want to connect them with the beauty of the natural world.

D.I want to thank the organizers that brought us here this week after 9 months of planning: JoAnn Campisi, Susan Ely, Bee Shay, Lori Loftus.

E.Introduced and thank the NPS Board: Bee, Lori, Susann, Andrew, Nora, Michael and Sharron.

F. Thank you to Kathy Lyons for running last year's online silent auction fundraiser. She will run it again for 2023, Dates: Nov. 14 to Nov. 26. Monies will go into the Archival and General Funds.

#### **4. Treasurer report – Bee:**

A. Membership Update:

51 New Members since Jan 1

164 Renewals (2023)

12 Renewals (2022)

81 Lifetime Members

15 Printmakers

**323 Current Members in Good Standing**

30 members unrenewed from 2022

Social media (thanks to Jenna Bullock) and classes (taught by Sue) has helped increase the NPS membership.

B. Bank Balances:

BB&T \$761.21 (working on getting this account closed)

Bank of America \$99, 224.57

0 balances on credit cards, Sue, Sharron, Bee

C. OTHER:

35 Guidebook Sales 2023

D. Generous \$5000 Donation from Alan Armstrong in memory of Sue Hanson is included in above balances.

E. 88 attendees at the 2023 workshop.

## **5. Online Programs offered by NPS this past year:**

A. LEAP Live on the NPS website features:

- a. 3 video classes, and over 40 people have taken classes.
- b. 11 Free teaching videos.
- c. 6 Live Interviews (these will be included in the Archives).
- d. Would you like to see a member interviewed or hold an online class? Contact Sue.

B. Printing Prompts – Each Quarter a Printing Prompt is sent out to members. Up to 2 prints can be sent to Secretary, Lori Loftus. Michael Reimer posts on the home page of the NPS website and Jenna Miller posts on social media platforms.

## **6. Sharron's Newsletter Editor Report - read by Sue:**

- At the time of this writing, I am at my desk in the Oak Grove suburb of Portland, and while this is being read to you and I hope we're connected in real time on the ZOOM call - with those of you at Wildacres and those of you who, like me, are at home.
- I am sad to be missing this workshop. I have missed very few in the 26 years of my NPS membership. I have served 14 of those years as the Newsletter Editor and as you probably know by now that I am retiring from that position. I will be preparing the Fall issue later this month and the Winter issue in late January, but then it will be someone else's turn.
- Serving as Editor has been an honor and a privilege. Fortunately, I took over when desktop publishing software was becoming more and more user friendly. I knew nothing about layout or typography. I still don't have the traditional printing vocabulary, but thanks to the technology at my fingertips I haven't needed it! With basic computer skills and the right software, putting the newsletter together, ready for printing, is a very doable task.

Sometimes the challenge is getting the content to fill 8 to 12 pages. Everything the Editor does depends entirely on you, the members. With very few exceptions, the author of every newsletter article is a member. We nature printers take great pleasure in sharing what we learn, and we love showing off our work! A number of our cover articles in recent years have been from new members it's a great way to get more involved. Please keep the how-to and other feature articles coming, as well as the shorter and easier From Our Studios submissions and - even in this era of rapid electronic communication - your Members' News items. And Tips & Tricks! The only rule is that it needs to be about nature printing.

- And please - if you think producing the newsletter is something you might like to do, contact me and I'll do my best to answer your questions. My email is always on page 2 of every newsletter.
- As I've said at previous meetings, when I've been behind the mic and usually a little teary, I don't know who I would be if it hadn't been for the NPS. I found my tribe at just the right time, and it has been - and will continue to be - a very important part of my life. Let's keep it going - it takes all of us.

## **7. Presentations:**

A. Jessica Felby gave a presentation about building an art community in Denmark and connecting people through gyotaku.

B. Chris Dewees co-founder and NPS archivist – gave a presentation remembering co-founder Eric Hochberg with photos and stories of the history of Eric’s life and how Chris, Eric and Bob Little co-founded NPS in 1976. One story was of the “Opening of Pressed on Paper Exhibit at Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, April 1981”, with a photos of Eva-B Zbar, Chris Dewees, Bob Cale and Eric Hochberg at the museum. Ida Geary was also involved with this project. Photo of Eric’s beloved wife Elena and daughter Adel.

C. Nancy Cann-Shimer asked if anyone could teach Eric’s viscosity method of printing. Bob Cale helped Eric with this printing method because Eric was color blind.

## **8. Archives Report Update – Chris Dewees:**

A. NPS Archives are hosted at University of California, Davis, in the Special Collections at the Shields Library.

B. In 1976 establishing an archive for NPS was one of the four main goals of the co-founders.

C. Digitizing All NPS Newsletters – Completed in 2023 and will soon be available online. Thank you to Sharron Huffman and Pat O’Connor.

D. The following subjects are included in the archives: Digitize Nature Printing CVs of Important Nature Printers, Examples of Exhibits and Events, 12 Original Nature prints, more than 100 Prints Scanned for NC Davis NPS Collection by Chris, important letters, NPS business records instructional videos and rare Nature Printing books.

E. Members can visit Kevin Miller and make an appointment to see the archives at UC Davis, email Kevin at [kcmiller@undavis.edu](mailto:kcmiller@undavis.edu).

## **9. 2024 Workshop - Sue:**

Location for the next year's workshop to be determined. If anyone has and ideas, please contact Sue. Key items to look for are: lodging and meals for attendees, preferrable no deposit required to reserve the site and space for classes.

## **10. Questions and Comments: open to all members:**

No comments, and any questions addressed above in the specific category during the meeting. Sue thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for those here at Wildacres Retreat...See you tomorrow!

## **11. Motion to Adjourn:**

Sue moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. EDT, Lori seconded, no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Loftus - NPS Secretary