

Hays Master Naturalist Board Meeting  
January 15, 2009 7:00 pm  
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit  
Dripping Springs, Texas

**Attending:** Present Dixie Camp, Vice Present Ben Adair, Secretary Mary Arizpe, Treasurer Larry Calvert, Host Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Past President Dale Shively, Newsletter Chair Art Arizpe, Training Committee Chair Mimi Boelter, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, TPWD Sponsor Lee Ann Linam, Volunteer Project Chair Walt Krudop, Chapter Members Susan Zimmerman, Tom Watson, and Tom Housler.

**Not Attending:** Outreach Committee Chair Susan Nenney, Historian Dorothy Knight.

Dixie called the meeting to order at 7:05. She welcomed those present and everyone introduced themselves. There was discussion about missing items on the state report. We'd like to develop new partnerships and get more chapter sponsors as well as increasing member recertification and member diversity. The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Officer Reports**

#### Vice President

Ben is working on locations and topics for chapter meetings as well as possible field trips. Possible gifts for speakers were discussed. These included certificates of appreciation, gift cards to stores, Master Naturalist mugs, or Master Naturalist t-shirts. Ben will check on the cost of t-shirts. Some chapter meetings will be open to the public. The outreach chair will put announcements of these meeting in local papers to help increase awareness of the Master Naturalist organization.

#### Treasurer

Larry reported that we are behind on getting membership dues. He wants to set up a budget to help manage the chapter's funds. Within 2 weeks board members will provide Larry with an amount that is needed to conduct their business for the year. Members need to provide better documentation for reimbursement. Larry provided the board members with a tax exempt certificate.

#### Secretary

Mary will email meeting minutes to the board in a timely manner. Emails sent to the chapter will deal with training, volunteer hours, or board approved communication important to Master Naturalists. Other emails can go through the Yahoo groups. When in doubt Mary will check with Dixie.

### Past President

Dale will use his discount card to buy awards plaques from Office Depot.

### TPWD Sponsor

Lee Ann reported that Richard Parrish, the 4-H advisor will fill in for Bryan Davis until a new agent is found. She asked for and obtained permission for 4-H members to come to appropriate Master Naturalist chapter meetings or field trips.

### Advanced Training & Membership

Betty reported that workshops from the extension office, Parks and Wildlife, the Wildflower Center, and the Wimberley Bird Society often qualify, but should be submitted in a timely manner so she has a record of the topic and date. Mary will send out an email about following guidelines for advanced training and submitting hours in a timely manner and/or an article will be put in the newsletter. Beth will send Mary a quarterly notice about members' hours.

### Volunteer Projects

Walt reported that there are 45-50 projects on the books. In the last year hours have been reported for 33 of these projects. He will contact the project coordinators to check on the status of their projects. Walt will update the list of projects.

There have been 2 project inquiries. Kyle Elementary School has requested Master Naturalist support for their environmental study center. Walt said that there needs to be a Master Naturalist to coordinate this project and he wants to know more about the project before he will approve the request.

Sherrie McGowan has volunteered to be in charge of the Jacob's Well project.

### Training Committee

Mimi reported that the class schedule is coming along well. She is checking out meeting places including the extension office and several churches in Wimberley. There are 42 applications for the 2009 class that the committee is reviewing. Most of the speakers are secured and the training committee is considering replacing Barron Rector with another speaker due to concerns about his interpersonal skills. Lee Ann provided Mimi with people to contact. Several board members expressed concern that Rector was being replaced and a discussion ensued. Mimi will ask the training committee members if they want to replace Rector and interview other potential speakers or have someone talk to him about his perceived abrasive nature.

### Newsletter

Art will highlight volunteer projects in the newsletter each month. He will get a list of the most active projects from Walt. Dixie has asked that each month a different board member write a piece for the newsletter instead of the president doing it each time.

### Host Committee

No report

## **Discussions**

### Conservation Easements Project

Due to the lateness of the hour it was decided that Susan would talk to Walt and the whole board would not participate in the discussion at this time.

### Chapter Management Guidelines

This discussion was postponed until the next board meeting on February 5.

### Memorial Donation for Ella

Dixie asked if the chapter should give a memorial donation to the Wildflower center for Ella Hetherley who recently died. Larry made a motion and Ben seconded for the chapter to make a donation of \$50.00 upon the death of each current, active member. The motion was voted on and passed.

Due to several conflicts with the February 12 date, the next board meeting will be February 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm. The location will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.