

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2008, 3:00 pm
820 Red Hawk Road

Attending: President Dale Shively, Secretary Susan Nenney, Training Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Vice President Dixie Camp, Newsletter Chair Richard Barnett, Texas Extension Sponsor Bryan Davis, TPWD Sponsor LeeAnn Linum, and Chapter member Walt Krudop.

Not Attending: Treasurer Winifred Simon, Past President Tom Watson

Dale called the meeting to order at 3:13. The agenda was approved as presented.

Officers Reports

Training Committee

Committee Chair Jean McMeans reported the committee has met twice and will meet again this week. The schedule is drafted, speakers are being lined up and some class sites are secured including the Extension office in San Marcos, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Dripping Springs, and Plum Creek Community Center in Kyle (1 meeting). Other locations are being considered for the rotation.

The committee is doing well. Task leaders are doing great work for the jobs they requested. The committee will meet at Winifred Simon's pool house as needed. Jean thanked Bari Conley and Bryan for their assistance in compiling notebooks, sending application letters and sending press releases to local newspapers. A second notice was sent Jan 9. It has run in San Marcos and Wimberley newspapers and in the Free Press.

Over 19 class applications have been submitted to date. Over 90 applications were mailed. The deadline for application is Jan 31. Bryan has fielded 5-7 of phone enquiries about the program.

This year's fee is \$160, an increase of \$12 from last year which may be paid in either one or two payments. Training Committee members will pay for all their meals at the beginning of the year. The committee plans to meet Feb 5 and notify final applicants by Feb 9 of acceptance.

The Board discussed strategies for selection of training class members. The group discussed lottery versus first-come strategies for managing recruit applications beyond the proposed 30 class size. The following strategies were discussed for the 2008 class:

1. Program sponsors (TPWD and Texas Agrilife Extension) may request up to 3 positions total in the class.
2. Applications will be taken in order received until a class size of 30 is reached. Applicants beyond the 30 number will be chosen by lottery and will include the 3 positions allotted the program sponsors.
3. Applicants not accepted into the current class will be placed on a priority waiting list for the next class.

A motion was made to approve the above policy for 2008. Bryan Davis moved and Susan Nenny seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
The Board also discussed strategies for building interaction between class members and between the class and the chapter.

The first class will be held Feb 19. Space will allow chapter members to participate. Chapter members are welcome to attend class but dinner will not be provided to them.

Secretary

No report.

Treasurer

A welcome letter from the Board with a request for \$15 dues payment was e-mailed to the membership by the secretary.

President's Report

Dale led a discussion of committee leadership for 2008. Committee chair positions are being filled.

Historian – Dale will lead this project, with assistance of Bryan Davis and Laurel Robertson. The goal is to complete the chapter history to date through records and interviews. Once compiled and loaded on the web site, it will be ready for yearly maintenance

Membership – Beth Ramey (Dale will contact her to see if she is willing to perform the job.)

Newsletter Committee – Richard Barnett

Those committees awaiting chairs include:

Volunteer Services Project Review (Dale will discuss this role with Walt Krudop and bring forth future action to the Board)

Advanced Training Committee – need recommendation from Board

Outreach Committee – need recommendation from Board

Host Committee - need recommendation from Board

Program Committee (work with VP)

Audit Committee – ad hoc Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Nomination Committee – ad hoc

Vice President

The first chapter meeting will be held Feb 21, 2008.

The program will be “Amphibian Decline and the Year of the Frog”

Speaker: Leann Linum, TPWD Chapter sponsor

Location: 820 Red Hawk Road, Susan Nenny's home

6:30 pm social gathering, 6:45 program and 7:30 Frog Walk (weather permitting)

No meal will be served. Beverages, finger snacks okay.

The group discussed the Chapter Master Calendar for 2008 which will be built around the class schedule. The Training Class schedule includes field trips to Canyon Gorge (April 12 and 13) and graduation on October 24.

General chapter meetings will be planned for February, April, June, August, October, and December (Annual Gala).

Chapter 10th Anniversary: Another probable event for a Saturday evening will be a Hays Co MN 10th Anniversary Party, possibly to be held at the Extension office as a cook out.

Vice President Dixie Camp presented additional program ideas:

- Jan Wrede from the Cibelo Nature Center has programs available. She is the author of Trees Shrubs and Vines of the Hill Country
- Joe Lapp – the spider guy.
- Gail McGlamery – Balcones Canyonlands Preserve
- Kevin Thuesen – with Austin Water Quality Protection Lands

Other suggestions included:

- Rainwater Systems: Process, Legislation and Public Policy
- Wildflowers
- Springs of Texas – Chad Norris

Possible field trips:

- Professor of rattle snakes
- Tunnel with the bats
- Kerr Wildlife Management – 2 hours distance last trip several years ago
- West Cave Preserve
- Birding field experience with knowledgeable birder guides

The Board discussed strategies to incorporate trainees into the chapter life:

- Give state level certificates at the Gala.
Note: The 2008 Trainee Class would be honored at the Gala by handing out their state certificates. This will help integrate them into the chapter faster. The class certificates would still be given to them at their class graduation conducted by the Trainee Committee.
- Focus volunteer projects to increase contact with members as well as visibility

Next Board meeting: Feb 7, Thursday, 6:30pm at 820 Red Hawk Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50.