

Hays Master Naturalist Board Meeting  
February 5, 2009 7:00 pm  
First Baptist Church Old Kyle Rd.  
Wimberley, 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, Outreach Committee Chair Susan Nenney, Historian Dorothy Knight.

Dixie called the meeting to order at 7:08. Larry and Ben moved to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2009 meeting. The motion was carried. Minor corrections were made to the agenda and it was approved with these corrections.

### **Officer Reports**

#### President

Dixie asked that someone make a calendar with meeting dates and locations. Ben will set it up. Ben and Mimi will make sure that chapter events and training dates will be posted on the website calendar. Charles Maxey will post events on the web calendar. Mimi will notify Dixie of training committee meetings.

#### Vice President

Ben is the board member who contributed an article to the newsletter this month. The calendar he sets up will track events, speakers, and program requests for the program committee. He will build a contact list of potential speakers for meetings. Some possible speakers are Rufus Stephens at the Cibolo Nature Center and Kelly Bender, an urban biologist. Terry Turney will speak at the next chapter meeting on biodiversity and invasive species.

Ben will need money budgeted for thank you gifts for speakers. Dale will look into Master Naturalist mugs as gifts.

#### Treasurer

Larry reported that the training committee has a \$2000.00 and the chapter has a balance of \$5359. We currently have 63 paid members. Larry asked the board members to determine how much money they need so he could finish the budget. He will update the budget and email it to the board.

Operating Handbook changes were discussed. Dale motioned to reformat the changes and to send them out to the membership 10 days before the meeting in which the changes will be voted on. The board will send suggested changes or approval to Larry by Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Secretary

No report

### Past President

Dale purchased some award plaques. His expenditures will be covered by the budget.

### TPWD Sponsor

Lee Ann reported that Parks and Wildlife people might be able to fill in while Bryan is gone. Mimi will call Terry Turney for possible site visit help. Mike Reagan, another Parks and Wildlife biologist, might also be able to help.

### Membership

Few volunteer hours have been reported. Beth will track trainees hours as well as the hours for general chapter members. She will go to a training class meeting and show the trainees how to report hours.

### Advanced Training

Betty approved 5 Advanced trainings this month and didn't approve 2 that didn't meet guidelines.

### Volunteer Projects

Walt may have 5 new projects: Kyle Elementary School Nature Center, Kyle Stream Cleanup and Environmental Fair on March 7<sup>th</sup>, Dahlstrom Ranch, Harrison Ranch, and demonstration plots at the new county offices. He will have a list of 2 types of projects for the March board meeting-those that are managed by Master Naturalists and carry our name, and those that offer volunteer hours but Master Naturalists are not the leaders on the project. We may partner with the new Baptist church in Wimberley. Master Naturalists may coordinate and advise at Jacob's Well. Scout troops may do the work and there is a grant to pay for trail building. Walt asked for approval for a project he is working on. He is serving on the board for a group working on water conservation, trying to decrease or eliminate dependence on ground water. This project as well as some others will not be listed publicly since they are not open to general volunteers. Walt will work up a standard form with project info and the project number.

### Training Committee

Mimi reported proposed Diane Spicer as the new site visit coordinator. Susan made a motion to accept her. Larry seconded and the motion was voted on and carried. There is still an opening for a speaker contact person. The training committee is contacting possible speakers to speak on range management and land fragmentation. Graduation is tentatively set for October 9. Class mentors have already contacted their mentees. The first class will be February 17<sup>th</sup> at the extension office.

### Newsletter

Art asked for a reporter from the training class to give information for the newsletter. Ben wrote this month's "A Naturalist's View for the newsletter. Next month it will be Mary's turn. Art may highlight the volunteer projects that take place at the Onion Creek water quality protection lands for the March newsletter. He can contact Delbert Basset for chapter information since the chapter started. Art will talk to local newspaper editors about putting news articles about Master Naturalists in their papers.

### Outreach

Susan reported that the outreach committee will provide strategies and infrastructure to get information out to people who are interested but aren't ready to commit to a training class. She presented her draft plan with the goal of "increased responsible land stewardship and advocacy in Hays county".

### Host Committee

No report

### Historian

Dorothy reported on the activities at Jacob's Well. The education center will be at the site of the old RV park. The old lodge will be demolished as it is in the flood plain. There is a site coordinator there and a master plan is in place. Master Naturalists are needed now for trail building. Dorothy will get together with Sherry McGowan, the Master Naturalist volunteer project coordinator for Jacob's Well.

## **Discussions**

### Chapter Governance Management Guidelines

Walt stated that this influences how we do business as a chapter. He said we need to discuss consensus decisions versus voting. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

The next board meeting will be March 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm. The location will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.