

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting
Thursday February 7, 2008, 6:30 pm
820 Red Hawk Road

Attending: President Dale Shively, Secretary Susan Nenney, Training Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Newsletter Chair Richard Barnett, and chapter member Walt Krudop.

Not Attending: Past President Tom Watson, Vice President Dixie Camp, County Extension Sponsor Bryan Davis, TPWD Sponsor LeeAnn Linum

Dale called the meeting to order at 6:40. The agenda was approved as continued from January's meeting.

Officers Reports

Secretary

No report.

Treasurer

Winifred Simon distributed the end of year 2007 treasurers report. The class began with \$3, 326.61, clearing approximately \$300 from the beginning of the year. Current class balance is approximately \$2,077. Other final supplies are being ordered. Class members will pay either at the start of the program \$165 or half now and half in June.

Dale requested as per our new routine last year, that Winifred draft language for Board approval that guides the class bank balance and budget presentation.

The chapter books were audited by Dr. Riddell, a volunteer who audits the chapter books through the Extension Office. The ad hoc audit committee includes the Vice President, Secretary and a chapter advisor. Proper procedures include an internal audit and an external audit. The chapter always has an external audit but has never had an internal audit. Dale proposed that the internal audit be conducted as directed in the Operating Handbook. The Board decided to begin the internal audit with the next Board, to be followed by the external audit.

Membership

Beth Ramey and the board reviewed membership routine processes. The chapter had 69 paid members last year. The Board reviewed operating processes for volunteer reporting and recertification thresholds as well as purchase of nametags certifications and chapter shirts. Each member should have a liability release; original copies are on file with the Extension Office.

ACTION ITEM:

The Board will consider the feasibility and utility of a membership directory to be used in a manner to be carefully considered.

Vice President

Dixie Camp reported that publicity for the February chapter meeting is creating interest. Dixie is contacting Gail McGlamery, with Balcones Canyonland Preserve, as our next chapter's meeting.

Training Committee

Jean McMeans reported on the class progress and presented the near-final class schedule. We had 39 applications and accepted the first 31 which came before the deadline of Jan 31. Bryan used one of his spaces. From the remaining, three were accepted by lottery to meet the class goal of 35. A trip to Bamburger Ranch is also scheduled.

All speakers but two and all venues are confirmed.

Volunteer Projects

Walt Krudop, the new chair, said the goal of his job is to look at the project list and determine which are active. The board needs a philosophy about projects, which will be chapter projects and which we help support. Patsy Glenn Refuge, Jacob's Well are two that are central to the country geographically. Many members are already active at Patsy Glenn Refuge. He said most chapters have one or two projects which they call chapter projects and focus energy upon. A more structured approach to project approval would help. The official criteria are fairly straightforward and easy to meet. He would also like to encourage volunteers to identify themselves as MN chapter members. He has worked with Dale to establish a timeline for completion. Dale noted that all volunteer requests need to go through Walt rather than through the Board.

President's Report

Dale reported on the history project.

Advanced Training Committee Chair – Dixie noted that Betty Finley is well qualified to chair the AT Committee. The job entails reviewing, approving AT opportunities and notifying the membership. Dale recommended that Betty Finley be named as Advanced Training Committee Chair, Jean seconded. The motion passed.

Host Committee – Dale will contact someone about this job. Most chapter meetings will involve light refreshments rather than meals.

Awards Guidelines – Dale would like to finalize the award guidelines by e-mail critique and add to Operating Handbook. The group will discuss this item at the next meeting which would probably qualify as an amendment. The membership should be notified in advance of an amendment vote.

President-Elect – Dale described a new board position which could streamline officer transition. Walt noted the officer structure was developed over two years and through about 4 drafts. The influential logic was that some boards had presidents they wanted to keep.

The group discussed beginning an early discussion of criteria for class participation in anticipation of next year, such as county residence or couples. Goal-setting for the year was also mentioned as a constructive discussion.

No board meeting date was set.

Jean moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.