

**Hays County Master Naturalist
Board Meeting
White Wings Ranch**

**MINUTES
March 16, 2006**

In attendance: President Tom Watson, Treasurer Winifred Simon, Vice President Dale Shively, Secretary Susan Nenny, Walt Krudop, Melinda Gumbert, Herb Smith, Judy Telford, Nancy Turner, Marion Couvillion, Richard Barnett, Dixie Camp, Betty Finley.

Tom Watson called the meeting to order at 7:00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee

Judy Telford reported that 285.25 volunteer hours have been reported this year to date. Most of these hours fall in the administration category. The data base tracks hours but is not currently configured to accurately count the number of volunteers who report. The total number of hours is 285.25, most of which is in the administration category.

ACTION ITEM: Judy will compile information about last year's volunteer statistics for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Judy will send a monthly note to the secretary for distribution reminding members to turn in hours.

Training Committee

No report (Nancy had car trouble.)

Hays County Extension Office

No report

State Program Report

Report deferred.

Treasurer's Report

Winifred reported that that chapter account balance is \$2,521.6 and the class account balance is \$ 3,541.16. Five people without e-mail are receiving hard copies of the newsletter. Names of other class members needing hard copy should be sent to Betty.

ACTION ITEM: Dixie will send to Betty Watkins the names of class members needing to receive mailed copies of the newsletter.

Secretary

Susan reported that she, Winifred and Judy Telford had met to discuss a process for creating a master data base of members, both active and inactive. She and Dixie Camp will develop a plan for telephone contact with lost or inactive members.

Program Development

Dale Shively reported upcoming event dates.

March 18: work day at Onion Creek will go forward if no rain. (Participants earn volunteer hours)

April 15: field trip to Cibolo for advanced training. The topic is "Prairie Management and Grasses".

Rufus Stephens, Parks and Wildlife Biologist and a staff member with 4-H will provide the training.

April 20 – Chapter meeting. Jacob’s Well. 6:30 Dinner and social time. 7:00 program. The topic is Statewide Water Quality Issues. The speaker is Cindy Contreras, Texas Parks and Wildlife. She is also scheduled speak to the class in September; the April program will be more advanced including aquatic insects and organisms.

May 13, 9:00am – Advanced training: Bee biology and bees in nature. Raising bees. Collecting a swarm, Africanized bees. Location: San Marcos at the home of Bob Benson, a local bee wrangler.

June 1 – Chapter meeting. Jacob’s Well, 6:30 Dinner and social time. 7:00 Program. Land Management for two endangered bird species: the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. Speaker is Gill Eckrich, Outreach Coordinator, Natural Resources Management Branch

Additional chapter meetings are scheduled for August, October, December – Christmas party.

ACTION ITEM: Dale will talk with Nancy about the possibility of a joint November meeting for graduation.

The group discussed food options for meetings ranging from pizza to potluck to catering. It was suggested that future dinner cost be assessed, not suggested. The board voted to use a caterer for dinner at the April meeting and set a \$5 limit on the meal. The chapter will make a \$25 dollar contribution to the Jacob’s Well Fund to cover facility costs.

ACTION ITEM: Dixie will contact ourladyofthelunch regarding catered meal options for the April meeting.

President’s Report

Tom has been working with 5-6 chapter members on outreach to elementary schools. They will carpool to San Antonio to take Project Wild training which they can provide to schools either this spring or next fall. This could set the basis to move the Junior MN program into local schools.

Walt reminded the group that volunteers working with youth will have to have a background screen through the extension office.

Tom said the chapter may offer a workshop for landowners this fall through Bryan. This would be a fundraising project.

A calendar item to be added is an April 8 all-day work day we will sponsor at the Extension office to assist Bryan with ongoing projects.

The chapter has agreed to sponsor the White Wings Nature Trail. Tom had scheduled a May 13 work day at White Wings but a chapter conflict will necessitate a rescheduling of that event.

ACTION ITEM: Tom will reschedule the White Wings Work Day with Shawn.

April 22 is Tom’s birthday and Earth Day. The chapter has two booth possibilities, one at San Marcos Nature Center and one at EmilyAnnTheatre.

ACTION ITEM: Judy Telford will send an e-mail to Susan for distribution asking for volunteers for Earth Day.

April 15 is Austin Nature Day. Tom will be doing a nature walk good for advanced hours as a partnership with Austin Nature Day.

Tom is working on a partnership with San Marcos Nature Center which will add a link to our web site.

OLD BUSINESS

Service Awards

Tom and Dale proposed the formation of an Awards Committee with guidelines. Typically awards go to past-serving president, outstanding chapter volunteer (not for committee work but for non-committee work), a speaker appreciation certificate or token, and longevity awards. The committee would decide what types of awards are appropriate, describe a nomination process and the committee could make nominations and forward to board for approval.

ACTION ITEM: Dale, Walt and Tom will draft concepts as an AWARDS COMMITTEE by next board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Tom will research some materials for this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Chapter Calendar

Tom proposed that the chapter establish regular meeting dates on the 4th Thursday of the month, beginning in August.

Board meetings when held would occur on the third Thursday, beginning in May. The next board meeting will be Wednesday, April 12.

Chapter projects

Tom noted that the chapter needs its own sponsored projects. The Hays County Chapter-sponsored project list could include the following projects: White Wings (chair Jamie Kinscherff), Wimberley Bypass (chairs, Dell Hood and David Jones), Jacob's Well (chair Marion Couvillion) and the ongoing County Rain Collection Project (Walt). The ongoing Hays County MN Snapshop Project (Winifred) was also discussed, for which the bird list is published and the plant list is almost complete. The butterfly list is complete and the reptile and amphibian list is being verified. The Work Day at the Extension office is billed this year as a HCMN project.

The Jacob's Well Wimberley Valley Watershed Association Project was noted as a very exciting, long-range project for which Tom and David Baker are beginning organization.

Winifred moved and Dale seconded that the Board adopted these five projects (County Rainfall Project, Natural Resource Snapshop, Wimberley Bypass, Jacob's Well and White Wings) as chapter-sponsored projects. The motion was passed.

ACTION ITEM: Tom Watson, Marion Couvillion, Winifred Simon, Jamie Kinscherff, Dale Hood and David Jones and Walt Krudop will assume/continue leadership of these five projects.

TCE/TPWD/Appraisal District Wildlife Management Workshop, April 29?, Wimberley VFW Hall – advanced training. Approval and request for volunteers to help out. Winifred moved and Dale seconded that the project be approved for advanced training. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Someone will send Susan a notice to put out a call for volunteers to assist with logistics.

EmilyAnnTheatre Gardens

A request is before the board for approval of Emily Ann Theatre as a site for an Earth Day Booth and booths at other EmilyAnnTheatre events. The group discussed the project's role in supporting fundraising efforts and possible project activities.

Winifred moved that the EmilyAnnTheatre Gardens be approved as a volunteer project with the caveat that volunteers cannot be involved in direct fundraising. The motion died for lack of a second.

Judy Telford moved that the Board approve the EmilyAnnTheatre Gardens as a volunteer project for the activities of demonstrating the rainfall simulator, publicizing the MN program, and providing advice and labor on the gardens and trails. Winifred seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer representative

Walt reported that the Leadership retreat March 1 may lead to reorganization of the Volunteer Council and recommended that discussion and nomination of a chapter representative be put on hold.

Approval of advanced training guidelines

The group reviewed revisions in advanced training requirements. Edits were suggested.

ACTION STEP: The committee will continue revisions review at the next board meeting.

Volunteer Projects Presentation to the Training Class

The group discussed opportunities to educate the class about chapter volunteer projects.

ACTION ITEM: Walt will propose the training Committee the idea of a poster project promoting class projects.

July 4 Parade Float

Susan proposed that a chapter enter a float in the Wimberley July 4 parade to publicize the chapter and provide information and outreach to the local community. The Board gave her the informal go-ahead.

Next board meeting agenda

- Telephone campaign
- Photo collection at various events
- PR Plan

Next Board meeting: April 12 Wednesday, 7:00 pm White Wings Ranch.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.