

MINUTES

HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALIST BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 5, 2007
7:00pm – 9:30pm
600 Red Hawk Road
Wimberley (Winifred Simon's Home)

In attendance: Treasurer Winifred Simon, VP Dixie Camp, President Dale Shively, Secretary Susan Nenney, TPWD Advisory Lee Ann Linum, Host Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Membership Chair Judy Telford, Training Committee Chairperson Nancy Turner

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Approval of Agenda

Dale asked for additions to the agenda. There were none.

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer

Treasurer Winifred Simon reported that 49 chapter members have paid 2007 dues. The group discussed strategies to encourage timely dues payment and reviewed the list to identify unrepresented members.

Dr. Rydl completed the chapter audit; all was in order. Linda Keese sent a thank you for her certificate of appreciation. The U.S. Treasury inquiry regarding the filing of Form 990 was returned to them indicating that the chapter is not required to file one due to having gross receipts under \$25,000.

Winifred distributed copies of current bank statements to the President. She also suggested that monthly submission of bank statement copies to the President and the Training Chairperson should be designated an official task of the treasurer. The group confirmed its intention to discuss at a future meeting an increase in dues for 2008 and a dues proposal to the chapter for membership input and discussion.

Winifred said the bank balance is on track for this point in the year unless a special event is planned. Last year's successful fundraising events included the Freeman Ranch field day and t-shirt sales.

Current dinner fees for chapter meetings include \$2 toward the space rental. The group discussed the addition of a donation jar to encourage support for the rent.

ACTION ITEM: Susan will send a reminder to all chapter members not listed as dues paid.

Membership

Dale said he had talked with Walt Krudop regarding the task of evaluating the chapter volunteer project list and activity. The group discussed the process for keeping up-to-date information on possible projects and good marketing projects.

Secretary

Susan reported that a notice had been sent to the membership for RSVP to the April chapter meeting. RSVPs are low at this time.

Training Committee

Nancy Turner reported on the training class:

1. One more person from the class of 2006 has qualified to graduate; the chapter is responsible after one month past graduation to order graduation goodies (shirt, pin, certificate) and honor those people at the next chapter meeting. In this case, Nancy has the shirt and will do the pin.
2. Class process for tracking class member hours has been revised and is **different that the process for chapter members**. Students are asked to submit a **paper form monthly** reporting volunteer and advanced training hours. Two people are in charge of site visit participation and will turn in copies of sign-ins to Barri at the Extension office and Judy Telford.
3. The class began with 30 participants and is now at 27.
4. The site visits will be conducted differently. Eight site visits will be conducted this year from May – September only. Two classes are held each month until summer. Two two-hour site visits will be required as class time; students will be required to attend field-based experiences in topical areas. Student applications for site visits will be reviewed and selected by Joe Black and Jamie Kinscherff.
5. This week’s class was the third class, featuring Troy Kimmel and Minette Marr. Next class is April 24.
6. The Chapter will inherit the old computer of Bryan Davis (Hays County Texas Extension).
7. Training concerns:
 - a. The space is not working well. Although the room was initially described by Center staff to hold 55, it is not functioning at that capacity. The tables – which are 36” wide rather than a classroom width of 24” – take up too much floor space. The Center does not have the capital to purchase additional narrow tables.
 - b. It is not possible to accommodate class members who want to bring guests and chapter members who want to attend lectures and/or provide dinner items and then sit in. Training committee members cannot even sit in the room for the lectures.
 - c. Noise from other groups requires closing doors which increases heat in room.
 - d. Training committee competes with Lions Club for equipment.
 - f. Communication between chapter and Extension office about interested new students has serious gaps. Potential students who contact the Extension office for class information during the year are not recorded with contact information for the chapter to pursue when class details are available.

The Board agreed that the definition of “adequate space” includes the ability for training committee members and chapter members to sit in on lectures.

The Board discussed solutions. Though not ideal, it may be possible to move to the large room for May 8, June 26, August 14. Other class dates - June 5, July 17, and Oct 2- conflict with standing group meetings in the Center. Nancy will pursue options.

Vice President

Dixie reported that naturalist interpreter Dennis Jones is scheduled for the April 26 chapter meeting at the Wimberley Community Center, dinner 6:30 and program at 7:00.

The June 4 meeting program will be Jan Fulkerson and a co-presenter who will talk about protecting homes from wildfire. Location is the Wimberley Community Center in the large room.

Dinner will not be served. "Tea and cookies" will be provided. This program will be advertised to the public at a charge of \$3. Dale will contact the Publicity Chair Walt Krudop to plan event promotion.

ACTION ITEM: Dale will contact Walt about creating publicity for this event.

Dixie noted that the board needs to decide if the chapter will co-sponsor the fall 3-day "Fire Wise" wildfire prevention training with Comal County. The Board agreed to co-sponsor this event. Dixie will move forward with co-sponsorship.

ACTION ITEM: Susan will send a message to chapter members seeking volunteers to work on a fundraising committee.

Discussion/Announcements:

- Earth Day Emily Ann, April 21 – The chapter will be participating. Karen Bartell is the coordinator.
- Earth Day Aquarena, April 22 – 12 noon to 6pm. Many officials will be on hand, and booths will be hosted by numerous environmental organizations. Betty Watkins will be an education volunteer, but the chapter has not yet reserved a booth. Judy Telford will reserve a booth. Dale will coordinate. Susan will send a notice for volunteers to work in 2-hours shifts noon to 6 pm.
- Training manuals for chapter members – As of this night, Winifred reported there are 5 requests for training manuals which she will order.
- Chapter meeting April 26 – see VP report above

ACTION ITEMS: Susan will send an announcement to the chapter seeking volunteers for two-hour shifts and set up and break down for the event at Aquarena Springs. Dale will be in charge of set-up. Judy will contact Barry and request a printing of chapter brochures on the chapter-purchase paper. Judy will also enroll the chapter as a booth.

Other business:

If there is interest, the chapter will participate in the July 4 Wimberley parade.

Date of Next Board Meeting \ Location: Thursday, May 3 – 7:00pm Winifred's house. 600 Red Hawk Road.

Adjourn

Jean moved and Winifred seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Submitted:

Susan Nenney, Secretary