

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

**MINUTES
April 20, 2006**

In attendance:

President Tom Watson, Vice President Dale Shively, Treasurer Winifred Simon, Secretary Susan Nenney, Judy Telford - membership, Nancy Turner - training, Herb Smith-web master, Bryan Davis- Hays County Cooperative Extension.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:06.

Membership

Judy Telford presented a comparison of member volunteer activity between the first quarter 2005 and first quarter 2006. The group discussed the categorization of projects which may meet several categories, i.e. The Refuge is both direct and indirect outreach, and habitat restoration. She distributed a chart showing volunteer hours and travel by types of project and specific project. Volunteer hours have more than doubled between these two quarters. (178.5 v 447.25).

The Board discussed a regular newsletter reminder to encourage members to report volunteer hours.

ACTION ITEM: Judy Telford will send an e-mail once a month to trigger newsletter and e-mail reminders to encourage submission of volunteer hours.

Training Committee

Nancy Turner reported that the class attendance is high. Training Committee members have set up a system to facilitate materials distribution for absent students so they may more easily stay current. Support for the class has been wonderful. Nancy will start excusing class support volunteers when their tasks are completed. Marion's hand-made speakers' gifts have been a huge hit. A kitty helps take in contributions for the materials needed. Marion's time is donated. A \$7 donation covers the cost of materials for each item. \$3 horseshoes \$6 garden stakes, \$10 flagholders.

The class logistics appears to be working better than some expected. Sign-in and meals systems are working well. Logistics of organizing materials and managing equipment are a problem.

Web Master

Herb Smith reported on Web site statistics. Web site usage is sharply up since the end of the year with 880 unique visits to the site in March 2006. Members are increasingly using online forms to report volunteer and advanced training hours.

ACTION ITEM: Judy Telford will add class members to the membership roster for volunteer and advanced training hours record-keeping. Betty is keeping them and can transmit to Judy.

ACTION ITEM: Nancy will follow-up.

Herb says information on the web site can be improved. Information sent to Richard should be sent to Herb as well. Richard probably subscribes to the state MN list-serve.

ACTION ITEM: Herb will sign up for the state MN list serve.

Board members discussed increasing the use of the web site calendar for postings, events, announcements, etc. and technical issues of data management and e-mail.

ACTION ITEM: Susan will give Tom the access codes to the chapter list so he can test its usability for transference.

The group discussed additional resource links for the site.

Telephone committee

No report

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Winifred Simon reported that the chapter passed its external audit which was completed March 15. All records were sent to Dr. Riddel who said we had good records. No changes were suggested. Only expense is \$ 29.94 in past month for web site hosting.

Secretary

Susan reported that the March minutes are posted. Susan will contact Kay Beth to obtain copy for an announcement about the Wildlife Management Workshop April 29.

Vice President

Dale Shiveley reported on the following events:

- April 15: Cibolo trip. Seven people have expressed interest.
- April 20: Chapter meeting at Jacob's Well Preserve. Cindy Contreras will have aquatic samples to study as well. \$5 dinner is available. Donation of \$25 to Jacob's Well.
- May 13 : Beekeeping Field Trip, San Marcos
- June 1: Chapter meeting. Program: Gil Eckrich
- November 7 Class graduation

Jamie Kinscherff has proposed an astronomy event.

ACTION ITEM: Judy Telford will contact Dennis Jones as a possible speaker. Nancy will discuss with the committee the location options.

President

Tom reported that the Onion Creek work day was rained out. A White Wings work day is under the leadership of Jamie Kinscherff. Six or seven members attended Project Wild training in San Antonio and will begin outreach to elementary schools in May.

Old Business

Advanced training guidelines.

Nancy Turner moved and Dale Shively seconded that the draft advanced training guidelines be approved. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEM: Herb will post the form for advanced training proposal along with the training guidelines.

April Chapter meeting

Earth Day Booths: Karen Bartell has the Wimberley booth organized. Judy Telford reported that she can always use more volunteers.

New Business

Membership retention strategy - skipped

Float for July 4

Susan described the possibility of a chapter float for the parade. The Board was agreeable.

Co-purchase of slide projector with extension agent

Bryan Davis proposed the joint purchase of a Proxima projector for use by the class. The cost is \$700. Bryan described various options for purchasing the projector through a cost-share opportunity with the county. A&M pays for half of the machine which remains in Hays County for use. The projector eliminates the need for a laptop and will accept a zip drive. The projector could be a joint purchase with the County Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist chapters.

Nancy recommended a contribution of \$300 to the use of a Proxima

Susan moved and Judy seconded a motion that the chapter contribute a maximum of \$300 to the joint purchase of a Proxima through the Hays County Cooperative Extension Program. A letter of understanding was requested. The motion passed.

No date was set for the next Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned.