

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting
Wednesday May 14th, 2008, 6:30 P.M.
600 Red Hawk Road

Attending: President Dale Shively, Vice President Dixie Camp, Treasurer Winifred Simon, Volunteer Project Chair Walt Krudop, Training Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, County Agrilife Sponsor Bryan Davis, and Past President Tom Watson.

Not Attending: Secretary Susan Nenny, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, Newsletter Chair Richard Barnett, and Historian Laurel Robertson.

Dale called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM. The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Officer Reports

Secretary's report – None

Treasurer's report – The current balance in the association account is \$2810.99. The class balance is \$5828.55.

VP report – Dixie requested that the May Chapter meeting announcement be sent to members again via email. The next Chapter meeting will be held at the Extension Center in San Marcos on May 29th; Trey Hamlet (TPWD) will discuss volunteerism. The June Chapter meeting will be a nature walk with Joe Lapp discussing spiders.

A discussion concerning the MN participation in the Wimberley July 4th parade was held. It was the consensus that the chapter forgo any participation this year due to coordination issues. Susan is still ill and has been the major driving force behind the event. Since we won both the best float and most spirited awards last year, the board concluded that we could take some time off from the event this year.

Membership Committee – None.

Advanced Training – Betty has approved numerous training opportunities over the last few months including: January (2), February (4), March (5), April (17), and May (5).

In other discussions, it was concluded that Betty must review any training first and calculate the appropriate training hours before it goes into the newsletter.

Volunteer Projects – Walt reviewed some of his work on paring down the project list and gathering data on existing projects. He and Dale Shively will discuss the project list before the next Board meeting.

Training Committee – Jean stated the class has 31 trainees to date and has completed numerous site visits. Butterfly boot camp is scheduled for May 17th at Freeman Ranch (RR12) hosted by Dr. Chris Nice and the class will select its class name at that time.

General Topics

1. Service Project – Trainee Chuck Curtis presented a proposal in which he would obtain a private grant to work on his property and the grant would be handled through the MN Chapter. Since the grantee would only work with non-profit organizations, the MN Chapter would hold the funds and Chuck would submit invoices for reimbursement. In return, the Chapter would charge a \$500 “administrative” fee.

It was the consensus of the Board that this would not be an appropriate use or function of the Chapter and would cause complications if other members wanted to do the same thing. Basically, the Chapter would only gain financially from the proposal and not fulfill its overall mission. The discussion was tabled and Bryan was tasked with talking with Michelle Haggerty about the proposal.

2. Training Committee Chair: Suggestions on the Training Committee Chair were discussed. Several persons were discussed but had conflicts which precluded them from being able to commit to the job. A general announcement will go out to the membership advertising the position and vice-chair.

3. Informational Packages for New Land Owners: Bryan Davis discussed Susan Zimmerman’s proposal to send information packets to recent land owners in Hays County on topics such as cedar trees. She will work through title companies to put together a list of land owners. Bryan talks with Real Estate companies also. Commissioner Karen Ford would like to see this project developed.

Winifred asked if funds would be needed to carry out the proposal. Bryan stated he would go to Commissioner’s Court or Appraisal Districts to send out the packages. It was concluded that the project had much merit but the Board needed more defined costs before committing. Some discussion was had on how many acres would a person need to own to get an informational package. Jean stated smaller acreage owners could be addressed with a speaker series.

A motion was made to proceed with the proposal. Dixie made the motion, seconded by Betty, all were in favor. It was planned for Susan Zimmerman to bring the cost information to the next meeting.

4. Treasury: Winifred was concerned about the chapter following all State Operating Procedures and found several discrepancies of how we have been doing business. She suggested that as we make modifications to the OP on the website for past approved changes, that we revisit all treasurer procedures.

5. Next Meeting – June 11, 6:30 PM, 600 Red Hawk Road

6. Adjourned – 9:00 PM