

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

**MINUTES
May 16, 2006**

In attendance:

President Tom Watson, Vice President Dale Shively, Secretary Susan Nenney, Judy Telford - membership, Nancy Turner - training, Herb Smith-web master, Bryan Davis- Hays County Cooperative Extension, Richard Barnett – newsletter, Bryan Davis, Marion Couvillion. Absent: Treasurer Winifred Simon

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Membership

Judy Telford distributed a report on volunteer hours and advanced training participation. Numbers are much higher to date than last year.

Training Committee

Nancy Turner reported that the class is doing well. Site visits with Bryan Davis are being arranged. About half of the class has signed up for a site visit which will run through October. Jamie is working on a couple of work days at the White Wings Ranch.

Web Master

No report.

Telephone committee

No report from Dixie.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Winifred distributed the treasurer's report prior to the meeting. She is suggesting that pre-approvals be required for any budget expenditure as current expenses have exceeded income for the year. There is about \$2500 in the treasury at this time. Expenses to date are \$375 more this year than last including web site fees, newsletter, and paper expenses. The Christmas dinner cost about \$60, meeting space at Jacob's Well costs \$25 per meeting, and \$300 is obligated for the computer purchase for the chapter. Marion also mentioned the upcoming expense of a bench for the Margaret White Trail.

The group discussed increasing chapter dues and the state of the training class budget. Dale suggested the group develop a budget for chapter meetings in 2007. Additional discussion was tabled.

Secretary

Susan reported that the outreach project to inactive members is moving slowly. The group discussed the script for upcoming calls including mention of upcoming chapter meetings and events. Walt suggested that members be asked for permission to place reminder calls about future events. Other suggestions included reactivating the class liaisons including Linda Hoppes and Melinda Gumbert from past two years.

ACTION ITEM: E-mail Bryan re banner in closet.

Vice President

Dale Shively reported that the June 1 program is set with dinner at 6:30 at Jacob's Well, followed by speaker Gil Eckrich. The group discussed logistics for meeting routine and food options such as Subway sandwiches in a bag, pizza, fish fry. Dale suggested also that the chapter sell Marion's speakers' gifts.

Dale reported that there appears to be little interest in field trips for advanced training. The beekeeping workshop was cancelled by the beekeeper. Six events are scheduled in June, which equals one or two a week. The group discussed options for advanced training and possible topics, such as rainwater collection.

President

Tom reported there was a large turnout for Earth Day, and over 200 contacts at MN events at the EmilyAnn Theatre, in San Marcos as well as wildlife workshops. Twenty individuals signed up for MN class info.

Chapter sponsorship of a one-day small acreage management workshop is under consideration. Bryan described a successful previous similar event.

The Texas MN annual meeting will be held in late October 2006.

The Wimberley Valley Watershed Association recently held a stakeholders meeting. The group is developing goals and a mission statement. This process is being hosted by LBJ Wildflower Center and restoration biologist Steve Windhager. A master plan will be forthcoming. The role of chapter members could evolve from manual labor to more creative and educational docent activities.

The Cibolo field trip is re-set to July 15. Fifteen reservations are held for the Hays MN chapter and 15 places for other chapters.

Tom attended the Invaders of Texas Program, a grass-roots program to build a data base of invasive species. Satellite participants could include HCMN. Volunteers would be trained to locate, ID and report species and their locations. A pilot program will be conducted by Tom.

Old Business

Wimberley July 4 parade outreach project Susan reported that the recently formed float committee met and created subcommittees for decorations, outreach materials and band formation. Marion Couvillion's trailer and tractor will be the basis for the chapter float entry. Bryan may have a chapter banner to precede the band and float.

ACTION ITEM: Susan will check with Bryan about the banner.

June 1 chapter meeting The group discussed tasks for the June 1 meeting including extra chairs (Marion, Walt, Nancy, Susan), food organization (Melinda Gilbert will be asked to help), cake (Dale), AV needs (Susan will ask Gil) and meeting notice with dinner details (Susan). A speaker on rattlesnakes was discussed as a possibility for the August meeting.

New Business

Public Relations The group discussed strategies for improving media coverage of chapter services and events. Nancy mentioned a summer workshop at the San Marcos Nature Center as an opportunity for outreach.

Upcoming events include:

- 1) the chapter has agreed to host the state MN booth at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo (Dixie and Betty have the lead); the Capital Area MN chapter will also help staff the booth.
- 2) May 29-30 is the date for the state MN organization's strategic planning workshop, planned in response to the growth of the organization

Class graduation The group discussed combining graduation with the November chapter meeting, and the possibility of the chapter hosting graduation.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:20.