

Hays Master Naturalist Board Meeting
June 11, 2009 7:00 pm
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center
Wimberley, Texas

Attending: President Dixie Camp, Secretary Mary Arizpe, Host Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Training Committee Chair Mimi Boelter, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, Newsletter Chair Art Arizpe, Volunteer Project Chair Walt Krudop, Treasurer Larry Calvert, TPNWD Sponsor Lee Ann Linam, and Outreach Committee Chair Susan Nenney.

Not Attending: Vice President Ben Adair and Past President Dale Shively.

Dixie called the meeting to order at 7:11. The agenda was approved and the May minutes were approved as amended.

Officer Reports

President

Dixie is asking for a historian to make a chapter scrapbook. Mimi reported that Lance is interested in being historian but doesn't want to do it alone. We could have a historian committee. Nancy Turner and Dale Shively were mentioned as possible members. Lanced will be asked to come to the next board meeting to present ideas.

Vice President

Dixie gave the VP report since Ben was not in attendance. Dr. Laurence Meissner, a professor at Concordia University, will speak at the next chapter meeting. He will talk about the Friesanhahn Cave near Bulverde. It has been likened to the LaBrea tar pits. There may be a chance to visit the cave. The meeting may be open to the community. Dixie, Ben, and Tom are working on getting presenters for the rest of the year.

Susan asked if the chapter needed to have more social time. Jean suggested that we have chapter meetings every other month with really good speakers and food-a potluck meal or pizza for example.

Maybe the board could call members and invite them to come to meetings. There are currently 77 paid members. Beth will send out a list of members.

Treasurer

The budget statement was reviewed. Dixie asked Larry to clarify the difference between the bank balance and the budget balance. The bank balance is how much money the chapter has in the bank and the budget balance is how much money the board members have left to spend. Larry said that there should be \$3000.00 left at the end of the year after all expenses have been paid out.

Secretary

No report

Past President

Not attending

TPWD Sponsor

LeeAnn reported on the Texas Nature Tracker program. Volunteers gather data on hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, amphibians, or mussels. Volunteers must complete a 5-7 hour training and adopt a site to monitor once a month. Monitoring can be done by 1 or 2 people or can be undertaken by a group. LeeAnn could train us for amphibian watch. To get the training we need to have 20 people signed up and name a contact person. We also need to select a site and agree to monitor it every month. It would be best for LeeAnn if we could be ready before July 13th. Susan will talk to Winifred and Shirley about hosting a training group since they have a good site to listen for amphibians.

Membership

Beth reported that there were 1835 year to date volunteer hours and 396.07 year to date advanced training hours reported. She sent out 114 emails or letters requesting demographic information and received back 45 emails, 2 faxes and 2 letters. It was suggested that the questions for demographic information be put on the new application for the training class.

Advanced Training

Betty approved 18 advanced trainings this month. Walt made a motion that the membership and advanced training chairs could round off the hours to make them easier to put into the training database. The motion carried.

Volunteer Projects

Walt reported that Barsana Dam is a non-profit organization so it does qualify as a volunteer project. Walt sent a project list to Herb to post on the website but the hotlinks didn't work in the pdf format that he used. The board wanted the live links because they are easier to use so Walt will send the file to Beth because she has the software needed to make a pdf file with live links. Then Beth will send it on to Herb.

Walt looked into the signage for planting areas that we work on. The Extension Service creates labels and gets plaques from a Florida company. When you buy the signs from this company you have access to a database of information on 70,000 plants. The company is sending Walt a catalog. Board members asked if the signs were waterproof or fade proof and who would be responsible for paying for them.

The state policy on background checks was discussed. The policy is that every volunteer should get a background check. If volunteers don't pass the check they can't work with children. There is no written policy as yet but Michelle said there would be in the future. To get a background check you fill out the forms, found on the state AgriLife website, and submit the forms with a \$10.00 fee to the AgriLife office. Walt included a question on the volunteer form asking if the project involves direct interaction with children. We need to tell volunteers that they need a background check and let them know where to find the forms. The information goes to the AgriLife office and office personnel are responsible for telling the volunteers whether or not they can work with children. The AgriLife office maintains these records. We have received notification from the state director of Master Naturalists that all chapter members need a background check. We need guidelines as to how to implement. Walt will ask Michelle for a letter with a clear statement of requirement for the chapter.

Training Committee

Mimi reported that the training sessions are going very well. The Aquarena class had excellent speakers and there was good feedback from the class. Walt asked Mimi to remind the class to submit rainfall data.

Mimi invited the board to EcoDay.

Newsletter

Art reported that he has received newsletter submissions from Mimi, Tom, and Lance. He worked with Jamie and Richard on the Canyon Gorge article.

LeeAnn will write the "A Naturalist's View" for the next newsletter.

Outreach

Susan received an email from someone who wanted to be part of the speaker's bureau. He will work up a power point. How do we decide who will be a good speaker? Should they present what they want or what we tell them? The outreach committee should decide this. Susan, Jean, and others will present on outreach at the state meeting. It will be a 3 hour interactive presentation. They will also develop a speaker's bureau and hold 1 more outreach event. Susan will check websites for speaker's information.

Host Committee

Jean asked if a date had been set for the Gala. Do we want to hold it later in the year? We need to find a place for the Gala. The Wimberley Community Center has increased in price. Jean will investigate possible sites. Could we hold the Gala at the Pioneer Ranch or is it too small? Jean will get people other than board members to help with the Gala

The next board meeting will be July 9, 2009 at 7:00 pm possibly at Jacob's Well. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.