

Hays Master Naturalist Board Meeting  
July 9, 2009 7:00 pm  
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center  
Wimberley, Texas

**Attending:** President Dixie Camp, Vice President Ben Adair, Treasurer Larry Calvert, Secretary Mary Arizpe, Past President Dale Shively, 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, TPNWD Sponsor Lee Ann Linam, and Outreach Committee Chair Susan Nenney.

Dixie called the meeting to order at 7:10. The agenda and the June minutes were approved.

**Action items will be noted at the beginning of the minutes.**

**Mimi** - ask Andy Quittner if he is interested in being on the History committee.

**Beth** - send contact information to Dale so he can contact people as the head of the History committee.

**Ben** - check to see if having "Happy Hour" before the Gala will be a problem at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit.

**Ben** - check to see if the Extension office is available for the August chapter meeting.

**Ben** - send call list and script to board members to contact chapter members for next chapter meeting

**Mary** - send 2 notices about the July chapter meeting

**Beth** - modify the application paperwork to include the demographic information.

**Mimi** - send the application form to Beth.

**Walt** - write "A Naturalist's View" for the newsletter.

**Walt** - email the brochure to Susan and Jean.

**Dixie** - talk to Richard Parish about dealing with chapter members' background checks and invite Richard to the next board meeting.

**Walt** - talk to Michelle and get names of chapters that have implemented required background checks. Contact them about how they did this and what forms they use.

## **Officer Reports**

### President

Dixie, Beth, and Mimi have been trying to recruit a historian. Lance Jones and Charles Maxcy are willing to help but neither wants to be in charge. Dale will be in charge of the history committee. Mimi will ask Andy Quittner if he wants to help.

They will set up an on-line account for photos of chapter events. Beth will send contact information to Dale.

### Vice President

Ben sent publicity notices for the July 30<sup>th</sup> meeting to local papers. The gala will be at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Ben will check to see if having a "happy hour" before the gala will be a problem.

We need more social time at chapter meetings. Food motivates people to come to meetings. Maybe we could have several pot luck or catered meals before meetings. Jean suggested that we have a theme for the meals. We will try to have a meal for the August or September meeting.

Ben will see if the extension office is available for the August meeting.

It's difficult to get speakers for meetings every month. We could have speakers every other month and use the remaining months for pot luck dinners or field trips. The program committee can vote on this next year.

Beth will send Ben a revised list of active members. Ben will send a call list and script to the board members so we can invite chapter members to the July chapter meeting.

Mary will send out 2 notices about the chapter meeting.

### Treasurer

Treasurer's report was reviewed. There were no bills in June and the deposits were payments from the training class.

### Secretary

No report

### Past President

No report

### TPWD Sponsor

LeeAnn gave a horned lizard program at the Wimberley library.

She is willing to work around peoples' schedules for anyone who wants to participate in amphibian watch training.

### Membership

Beth will revise the training class information form to include the demographic information needed for the state report. Mimi will send the form to Beth.

### Advanced Training

Betty approved 12 advanced trainings this month.

### Training Committee

Mimi reported that class is going very well. The class currently has 29 members. After the last class the mentors met to brainstorm ways for the class members to finish up their volunteer hours. Volunteer hours don't have to be completed by graduation. The class has until the end of the year. Mimi had printed the list of volunteer projects for the class. Some of the trainees called some of the volunteer contact people and got no response. Some active projects, the Wildflower center, Aquarena Springs, Wild Basin, were suggested as places that frequently need volunteers. We may also need to have a work day at the extension office and the trainees can earn hours there.

### Newsletter

Art reported that he has been getting lots of articles from chapter members. He is looking for a volunteer project to highlight for the next newsletter. Walt will write the "A Naturalist's View" for the next newsletter.

### Outreach

Susan is working on the speaker's bureau. She is planning to send speakers out in pairs, if possible. She will place an ad in the paper asking for speakers. The speaker's bureau committee will have a meeting at the end of the month.

There will be a FLOW (For love of water) event September 11 and 12 at the Wimberley Community Center. We might be able to put an exhibit there. October 17 there will be an Ecofest at the Katherine Anne Porter School. We will have a booth there. Ray will talk about the rain simulator. Other speakers include Jamie, Karen, and Bryan Davis. Louis can get applications for volunteers and advanced training. We could hand out business cards with the chapter name and website information. We still have information sheets from the builder's fair. The cost of the brochures has been a problem. They cost \$300/thousand. Can the chapter pay for printing? Could we run them off at the extension office? Is the information on the brochure generic enough to be relevant for a long time? Walt has the brochure on his PC and will email it to Susan and Jean.

### Host Committee

Jean reported that the gala will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Graduation will be October 16<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer Town. We will try to have a pot luck supper meeting in August.

### Volunteer Projects

Walt led the discussion about background checks. The Master Naturalist program is concerned with screening people who work with children. The policy is that all MNs who work with children must be screened and it's recommended that all MNs be screened. We do not currently have screening forms in our application but we are liable in case of problems with unscreened members.

Dale talked with Michelle. She said the extension service wants screening every 3 years. Since we currently have no extension agent, we would go through Richard Parrish, the 4-H person. We would need to make the screening requirement known as part of the MN application process. The extension office may have funds available to pay for screening of current members. We could have members who do not wish to be screened sign a waiver saying they won't work with children. If you have a current background check from elsewhere (teachers) you can use that.

The screening goes through the extension office. Richard would submit the forms and receive the results. Our job is to make sure that members are informed and sign a form stating that they know they need to have a background check. We would need to keep those signed papers on file. Then everyone needs to be screened every 3 years in accordance with the Youth Protection Update. Richard (or Bryan's replacement) will handle telling people if they failed their background check.

Walt will put the background check information on the application for trainees. Dixie suggested that we invite Richard to our next board meeting to ask how to best handle putting this in place especially with our existing members. Some members may object on principle to having this check done. People may feel that this information is no one's business but their own. The form used for 4H volunteers includes information on people's credit.

Walt will get names of other chapters from Michelle. He will contact the chapters and ask how they presented the screening information to their membership and what forms they use.

The next board meeting will be August 13, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Jacob's Well. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.