

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting
Wednesday July 16th, 2008, 6:30 P.M.
600 Red Hawk Road

Meeting called to order at 6:35 P.M.

Attending: President Dale Shively, Vice President Dixie Camp, Treasurer Winfred Simon, Training Committee Chair Jean McMeans, County Agrilife Sponsor Bryan Davis, Le Ann Linam, TPWD, Membership Chair Beth Ramey.

Not Attending: Past President Tom Watson, Secretary Susan Nenney, Volunteer Projects Chair Walt Krudop, Newsletter Chair Richard Barnett, Historian Laurel Robertson

Officer Reports:

Secretary – not present. Dale reported that Susan is doing better – hopes to return soon. Dale not getting her e-mails, will contact Herb Smith to see how the forwarding is set up.

Treasurer - Chapter fund \$2935.50, Class fund 6299.38. There are still some gifts to purchase for the year. Should end up with money in the fund after the graduation

Training Chair – There are 31 Trainees who will probably all finish. Advance Training and Volunteer hours are good. The majority are at or near the certification requirements for the year. Next class will be in Plum Creek. Graduation is Oct 24th.

Vice President – upcoming meeting is at Episcopal Church of Holy Spirit, July 31st with Wildscaping as the topic, Advance Training hours will be determined and reported later. August 28th meeting topic will be Pollinators with Mike Quinn @ 6:30. Oct is graduation. Sept 25th meeting topic is open – considering permaculture as a topic. (This will be the last program for the year.) Possible future meeting topic – Thoughtful Urban Planning – preserving natural resources in developments possible speaker would be John Davis.

Expo – this year will include volunteers from other TxMN chapters. Dixie is working with Sonny Arnold to coordinate the event.

Advance Training Chair – 4 Advance Training events were approved in July. It was noted that Presenters can get volunteer Hours for conducting AT events. Water Quality training is becoming a hot topic. Discussion ensued regarding certification and training requirements. It was decided Beth Ramey will talk to Ginger Geist and ask that all events be submitted to Dale and Susan in advance so announcements can be sent to entire group using the normal channels. Observation training will be allowed 1.5 hrs, certification 8.0 hours,

Membership Chair – Current hours reported by membership: Advance Training 206,
Volunteer Hours 1935

General Business:

The chapter has received a Mission plaque from Michelle **Haggerty**, State Coordinator, TxMN, commemorating the chapter's 10th anniversary.

Dahlstrom Ranch – David Braughn (Attorney) is looking for statements in support of project in which Hays County, the City of Austin and the Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) are in negotiations to purchase a conservation easement on the Dahlstrom Ranch, which is located in Hays County in the recharge zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The ranch includes several recharge features (enlarged cracks, fractures, cave opens, faults, etc.), which are estimated to provide a substantial amount of recharge to Onion Creek. Walt has info and is working on the statements. It was decided the chapter will provide a letter of support because we believe this project will help reduce fragmentation. Dale will get more details and draft a letter for review by board.

The Master School in San Marcos has asked for MNs to assist with a garden project for students. It was decided MNs can act as consultants and help direct the activity and plant acquisition. There are concerns regarding long term ownership of the project. Jean McMeans will contact the teacher who made the request, discuss the scope of the project and will report back to the board at the next meeting.

2009 Training Committee chair – Mimi Bolter has agreed to consider the position for 2009. She was duly nominated by Dale Shively, nomination seconded by Jean McMeans. The selection was unanimously approved by the membership. Upon acceptance, Mimi will appoint her co-chair and begin to recruit her committee.

Goals for remainder of the year:

Winifred suggested we complete updates to the Operating Handbook.

State MN conference is upcoming – There are scholarship funds available for Chapters that provide funds for registration for one member for each chapter. Resolved - we will award the scholarship to the sitting president.

Next meeting - Sept -17th 6:30 P.M., 600 Red Hawk Road