

Hays Master Naturalist Board Meeting
Oct. 8, 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, Training Committee Chair Mimi Boelter, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, Outreach Committee Chair Susan Nenny. Newsletter Chair Art Arizpe, TPNWD Sponsor Lee Ann Linam,

Not attending: Volunteer Project Chair Walt Krudop and Host Committee Chair Jean McMeans

Dixie called the meeting to order at 7:15. The agenda and the corrected September minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

President

Dixie reported that our new extension agent, Kasey Mock, was approved at the commissioner's court. She will try to get him to come to our next board meeting. He doesn't start in Hays County until November 15th. Until then he is shadowing the agent in Comal County. Dixie will ask him to come to the gala as our guest. Art will try to interview him for the newsletter.

Work is in progress to recruit people for next year's training committee. Several people from the training class have expressed an interest in being on the committee as well as Randy Garst and Lin Weber.

Some people said that they would be more willing to be on the committee if the class wasn't spread out over 10 months. Susan stated that Bryan Davis had said that we had one of the best programs in the state. The chapter had gone through several years of torment discussing the length of class and whether or not it should be compressed. It was previously decided to keep our training class the way it was.

Dixie is willing to entertain compressing the class in order to get training committee members. She has talked with class and chapter members. She is also working on getting a training committee chair. If this is a problem we may not have a training class next year.

Vice-President

Ben received lots of good feedback on the last chapter meeting at the Rutherford house. Everyone who had RSVPed came except for 1 person. The October 22 meeting will be at the fish hatchery on McCarty Lane in San Marcos. David Brant will give a tour and talk about the endangered species that they deal with.

Past President/Historian

No report

Treasurer

Larry asked if there were any questions about the treasurer's report. There were none. He made an announcement about dues for 2010 coming due. 14 people have already paid. Upcoming expenditures include shirts, pens, and certificates for the graduates. The chapter will give the graduates mugs the cost of which came out of the program budget.

Dale has plaques for awards and asked if we have funds if the awards go over budget. Larry replied that we do.

Secretary

No report.

TPWD Sponsor

LeeAnn reported that people had fun frogging after last month's meeting. Many spring species of frogs were heard calling. There will be training in the spring for people who want to participate in the amphibian watch program. LeeAnn can ask the Wildlife Diversity botanist to help with site visits.

Membership

Beth reported that the members have submitted 3851 volunteer hours and 823 hours of advanced training. 23 people have already met the requirements for certification/recertification. If past trends hold, approximately 46 more people will be certified/recertified.

Approximately 36 milestone awards will be given. Tom Watson will receive an award for 1000 hours of volunteer service.

Awards

People can nominate members for awards. There is a list of possible awards on the website. Winifred Simon, Ray Franklin, and Richard Barnett have been suggested for the special achievement award.

Advanced Training

Betty approved 15 advanced trainings this month.

She asked to discuss the trainings at EcoFest. Which ones would be AT for master naturalists? Does "Organic Gardening" count as AT for members? What about "Green Building"? It was stated that "Green Building" had been approved for AT at EcoDay so it should be approved for EcoFest as it deals with saving resources, i.e. wood and water. Betty will check with Michelle and/or Sonny.

Betty will email Louis and ask about the "Flood Safety" speaker and she will check on credit for "Wildfire Protection".

Advanced training applies to further learning of topics that master naturalists learn about in their course work. If only a title is given it is difficult to decide if a workshop will qualify for AT. A course description or learning objective is more helpful. Betty follows guidelines to determine whether or not a course qualifies for AT.

For day long events, each seminar needs to be approved on a case by case basis.

Time should be reported in quarter hour increments.

Training Committee

Mimi reported that the last class will be on Tuesday at the extension office. Beth ran a report with AT and volunteer hours. The committee talked with the people who have not yet earned enough hours for certification.

Mimi will order shirts for 26 graduates. The master naturalist bookstore online has shirts and business cards. Susan has cardstock and can make business cards. She will download the logo from the bookstore business card template. Most of the cards will not have specific names on them but Ray wants some cards printed with his name.

Newsletter

Art needs a volunteer for the "Naturalist's View" column in the newsletter. Jean will write the column. Lance has pictures as do Walt and Winifred. Pictures can be funny or serious. Mimi will send Art pictures. The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance will be the featured volunteer project for the next newsletter.

Outreach

Susan reported that we will have a booth at EcoFest. Several Master Naturalists will give 15-30 minute talks. Ray will talk about grasses and the rainfall simulator. Jean will teach children about nature. Jane and Cara will talk about backyard bird habitat and rain barrels. There will be a children's area. Help is needed for this. There will be coloring pages for the children. Jean and Susan are working on a presentation for the state conference on "How to do Outreach".

Host Committee

Jane and Cara will help Jean with the graduation/gala. Beth Watson will cater the event. Dixie talked with the police about security. There is a \$500.00 security deposit and a \$75.00 set-up fee. On October 1st the city will take over the community center. They said that they would honor our contract for using the building. Susan has the program on her computer. There will be an insert with the names of the graduates. Jean needs to talk to Linda Calvert about the program. Larry will also ask Linda to do the program.

Volunteer Projects

Larry and Beth haven't received the information on background checks from Walt.

The next board meeting will be Nov. 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Jacob's Well. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.