

**Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting
November 6, 2008, 6:30 P.M.
820 Red Hawk Road**

Attending: President Dale Shively, Vice President Dixie Camp, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, Secretary Susan Nenney, Training Committee Chair (2009) Mimi Boelter, Volunteer Projects Chair Walt Krudop, TPWD sponsor Lee Ann Linum

Not Attending: Past President Tom Watson, Newsletter Chair Richard Barnett, Historian Laurel Robertson, Training Host Committee Chair Margaret Baker, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, TX AgriLife sponsor Bryan Davis

Dale Shively called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Approval of agenda

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Winifred Simon moved and Lee Ann Linum seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed.

Officer Reports

Secretary's report – Susan Nenney reported on the secretary tasks ahead to finalize and document this Board's meetings. She also reported on the Gala preparations.

Treasurer's report – Winifred Simon reported that the current chapter balance is \$2,633.93. The class balance is \$4, 463.30. A startup fund of \$2000 will be left in the class account for the 2009 Training Committee. The remainder will be transferred to the chapter account.

Winifred noted that the by-laws state the chapter will conduct an internal annual audit to be reported at the annual meeting. The external audit is not sufficient. The Audit Committee is comprised of the Secretary, Chapter Advisor and Vice President.

The bank signature cards need to be updated. A letter that identifies new officers needs to be presented to Compass Bank. Susan will draft that immediately after the Annual Meeting and elections.

VP report – Dixie Camp reported that the October meeting on Conservation Easements was semi-successful. About 22 attended the event.

Membership Committee – Beth Ramey reported that the annual membership activity to date is as follows:

Advanced Training hours	721
Volunteer hours	4,641
Travel hours	537

The membership data base is up and running. As of Nov 4, 31 people had qualified for recertification based on hours submitted by Oct 31. Awards this year will include 11 bronze (250 hour) awards, 1 500 hour award, and two gold awards (1000):

MILESTONE AWARDS - 2008			
Name	Volunteer Hours	Milestone Level	Milestone Date
BRONZE (250 HRS)			
Susan Zimmerman	253.25	Bronze	10/31/2008
Cara Wernli	259.50	Bronze	10/11/2008
Ginger Geist	260.75	Bronze	9/30/2008
Betty Finley	268.00	Bronze	10/30/2008
Jane Little	270.00	Bronze	10/12/2008
Mimi Boelter	273.00	Bronze	10/8/2008
Larry Calvert	305.80	Bronze	8/31/2008
Bonnie Tull	305.90	Bronze	9/20/2008
Dale Shively	306.50	Bronze	2/29/2008
LaRay Geist	311.25	Bronze	9/30/2008
Karen Bartell	335.00	Bronze	10/31/2008
Leah Laszewski	378.00	Bronze	8/23/2008
SILVER (500 HRS)			
Karen Archer	580.75	BSilver	6/30/2008
Dixie Camp	668.60	BSilver	11/30/2008
GOLD (1000 HRS)			
James Kinscherff	1003.75	Gold	10/3/2008
Richard Barnett	1096.10	Gold	7/31/2008

Five-year recertification certificates include: Dixie Camp, Ray Franklin, Karen Hayward, Jamie Kinscherff, Tom Watson, Nancy Turner, Herb Smith, and Susan Zimmerman.

Projects which drew the greatest number of volunteer hours included:

Data collection	426
Nature Conservancy	645
Canyon Gorge	206
Blanco Watershed	275

Beth reviewed the steps she has taken to upgrade the data base system for management of individual member hours. She predicts it will run smoothly and automatically from this point forward.

Advanced Training – No report

Volunteer Projects – Walt Krudop reported that the most current list of projects is not on the web site. Two projects which did not get traction or a project number were Dahlstrom Ranch (not an official MN project) and H2Oasis (a 501c3).

Dale reported on the geocaching class he took at the state meeting. Geocaching is one of the fastest growing hobbies worldwide. A cache is just a plastic box containing trinkets. People travel to find the box. He suggested it could be used for an MN project. The caches could be placed in areas that are representative of varying natural areas in Hays County and an information brochure could be placed in each box. A person finding all six boxes as an example and turning in codes could receive some type of certificate or award.

Training Committee – Mimi Boelter, Chair of the 2009 Training Committee, reported that the Training Committee is looking for class meeting locations. David Baker has a facility that he would like the class to use but it is not yet ready. The Training Committee plans to meet at his B & B which is near his Wimberley home.

Dixie raised the issue of the 2008 class choosing a name for their chapter (Roadrunners) which was chosen by a previous class. Discussion followed. The Board was in informal agreement that the 2008 class should be known as “Roadrunners 2008”. This was not a Board agenda item and Board had no authority to intervene in the decision as it did not violate the Bylaws or Operating Plan. The discussion was informal but all felt a reasonable alternative solution should be found.

Chapter Sponsor – Lee Ann Linum had no report.

Discussion Items

Changes to Operating Handbook – Amendments 1 and 2

Dale presented Amendment 1 - scholarship. The motion was made by Walt and seconded by Dixie to accept amendment 1 as mailed to the membership with a revision suggested by the membership. The approved amendments were:

C. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. President

(insert)

k. Recipient of any scholarship given periodically to the Hays County master Naturalist chapter by the State Master Naturalist program for the sole purpose of defraying a portion of the registration fees for attending the State Annual Master Naturalist Meeting. If the Chapter President is not available to attend the annual meeting, the scholarship will be given to another member of the Board for attendance. *If no board member can attend, the board will select a chapter member to receive the scholarship.*

Amendment #2 – Awards Dixie moved and Walt seconded the amendment as presented by Dale and as distributed to the membership.

F: AD HOC COMMITTEES.

(insert)

3. Awards Committee. Responsible for nominating recipients for the award categories described below, following the given guidelines. Will draft a short biography of the award nominees describing the justification for the award and forward award nominations to the Chapter President for final approval.

3.1 Award Categories:

3.1.1. Past-President (Outgoing) Award of Service

For current HCMN Program President upon the end of the term in office.

3.1.2. Outstanding Volunteer (Training Committee)

For a volunteer nominated by the Training Committee Chair who excelled in their participation on the training committee based on hours of service, commitment, and dedication to excellence.

3.1.3. Award of Recognition (Training Committee Chair)

For current HCMN Training Committee Chairperson at the completion of their term of service as chairman.

3.1.4. Significant Contributions to the Chapter (1 or 2 persons)

For a certified member who has made significant contributions to HCMN on a continual basis based on years of service, volunteer hours, project participation, chapter leadership, public relations for HCMN, or other category as deemed appropriate by the Awards Committee.

3.1.5. Years of Service to Chapter (5, 10, etc.) for Certified Members

For recognition of certified members of HCMN upon completion of periods of time (5, 10, 15, etc. years) in which they maintained their certification. Years of service need not be continuous.

3.1.6. Outstanding Chapter Volunteer of the Year

For a certified member who has made significant contributions to HCMN for the current year based on service, volunteer hours, project participation, chapter leadership, public relations for HCMN, or other category as deemed appropriate by the Awards Committee.

3.1.7. Special Achievement Award (case-by-case basis; used only as needed)

For a certified member who has made significant contributions of service and volunteerism to HCMN and the local community through project participation, leadership, public relations or other category as deemed appropriate by the Awards Committee.

- 3.1.8. Honorary Member (optional award each year for individual or group)
For any individual, group, or organization that has exemplified the standards of a HCMN and have made significant contributions to the continued education and stewardship of the natural resources of their community.

3.2. Nominating Process:

- 3.2.1. The Awards Committee is composed of 3 members appointed by Chapter President; the Committee will nominate qualified candidates for awards.
- 3.2.2. Majority vote of committee needed to recommend award recipients.
- 3.2.3. The Awards Committee will draft a short write-up describing the recipients' accomplishments for the following award categories: Outstanding Volunteer (Training Committee); Significant Contributions to the Chapter (1 or 2 persons); Outstanding Chapter Volunteer of the Year; Special Achievement Award; Honorary Member.
- 3.2.4. Once a person has achieved Outstanding Volunteer (Training Committee) and/or Outstanding Chapter Volunteer of the Year, they would not be eligible for either award again within 2 subsequent years. This gives other members an opportunity to receive those awards.
- 3.2.5. If there are no nominations for a category or the committee feels no one merits a particular category award, then the award is not given for that year.
- 3.2.6. After recommendations are made by the Awards Committee, the list of award recipients and corresponding justifications will be forwarded to the Chapter President for approval. The role of the Chapter President is to insure that all guidelines of section F.3 have been followed by the Awards Committee.
- 3.2.7. Honorary Membership is subject to HCMN Bylaws, Article IV, Section C. Honorary Membership. Membership must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting.

3.3 Award Types:

- 3.3.1. All award recipients will receive a Certificate of Appreciation mounted on a plaque with the exception of the Years of Service recipients (Award 3.1.5. above) who will receive only the Certificate.
- 3.3.2. Honorary Member – honorary membership to HCMN and Certificate with plaque.

(renumber)

4. Other Ad Hoc Committees

Winifred noted that the amendment describing the Treasurers' Duties has not been drafted. Dale said these would be clarifications rather than amendments and could be made by e-mail and sent to the board.

Advanced Training approval issues (Betty/Beth)

Beth Ramey reported that she and Betty Finley had some concerns about communications which should be directed to the next Board.

MN Chapter Gala (21 NOV) Planning

The Gala planning is underway through the *Chairless* Gala Committee. Nancy Turner is creating the program, Jamie will be asked to provide music, Jean McMeans is contacting Beth Watson about food arrangements, RSVPs are being sent to Susan Nenney, Dale is working on the Awards Committee. Jane Little, Cara Wernli and others will be decorating.

Awards Committee

Dale will meet with Walt about the Awards Committee.

Beth Ramey has some extra pins from previous recertification awards. At some point we should send out an e-mail searching for those who may be missing earlier pins.

Other

Dale proposed a social gathering for December with no agenda.

Susan raised the possibility of a board orientation. The group agreed in general that this would be helpful to the new board.

Next board meeting

No date was set for the next board meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Walt and seconded by Winifred. The meeting adjourned at 8:50.