

**HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 13, 2006
820 Red Hawk Road
Wimberley TX**

Attending: Tom Watson, Dale Shively, Judy Telford, Susan Nenney, Nancy Turner, Richard Barnett, Winifred Simon. Leann Linam from TPWD, Dixie Camp

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Lee Ann Linam, a TWPD employee of over 20 years with a focus on census of species of concern will be the new chapter representative from that agency.

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Committee Reports

Telephone Committee

Dixie Camp reported on her May outreach telephone project with absent members. She called everyone except the Board and the training committee. During her outreach calls, Dixie promoted the June meeting and discussed current events. Some inactive members are busy and may return when they can.

Membership Committee

Judy Telford reviewed members' reported volunteer hours for the year-to-date (including class member hours). Reported activity is significantly above last year's average contribution. The data base does not accurately report volunteer participation in more than one event, so there are limitations in interpretation, but the number of hours is accurate. Due to differing reporting practices, it difficult to draw historical comparisons. Judy reminded the group that when members report hours on a sign-in sheet, they don't have to report them on the on-line form.

Participation in the July 4 parade event will be reported as direct outreach.

Training Committee

Nancy reported that the class is going well. Responsibilities are being shared. The site visit committee will have sign-in forms at the site visits and turn them in. Nancy will provide training committee minutes. The secretarial job responsibilities have been divided. She described additional tasks of class and training

committee feedback on speakers. They continue to organize the next few meetings.

Graduation committee: The training committee representatives to the graduation committee will be Susan Black, Betty Finley, Nancy Turner. They have delineated tasks and hope to meet soon with three members from the chapter (Dale, Susan and an unnamed volunteer.) Nancy will chair this committee. No speaker will be enlisted beyond Brian. A short list of location options includes the VFW Hall.

Action step: Susan N will send an e-mail seeking recruitments for this committee.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Winifred reported that the class account balance is \$3,983.49. People are not turning in requests for reimbursements for class meal expenses. For 9 class meetings, the average is \$53 in meal expenses. The volunteers who eat are paying \$5 a meal. Winifred and Nancy will work together to project additional income and expenses.

The Association shows 52 paid members. The t-shirt sales cleared about \$100. The bird list earned \$50 in sales. Meals at chapter meeting have slightly exceeded costs overall. Few expenses have come in for the parade event. The only other expense is Marion's costs for a display box. \$300 is approved for the projector purchase which has been purchased but we have not received a receipt. The estimated chapter balance is \$2453 without the anticipated \$300 projector expense.

Secretary – no report

Vice President

Dale reported on scheduled activities. Aug 17 is next chapter meeting under Tom's guidance. Tim Cole, an herpetologist, will be the speaker. We'll convene chapter at 6:30 for the meal and have meeting open to the public at 7:30 with tea and cookies. Location will be either Jacob's Well or the Extension Office. The chapter will set up the display at the back of the room for public outreach.

The calendar looks thus:

Saturday, July 15– Cibolo field trip. The drive is 1 ½ hours, the training begins at 8:30 am. Hays County MN will provide snacks.

Saturday, July 15 – A work day at Jacob's Well is also scheduled this Saturday.

August 10 Thursday – Board meeting

August 17 Thursday – Chapter meeting

October 20-22 – State meeting, Mo Ranch

October – No chapter meeting due to other chapter activities and upcoming class graduation in early November.

November 7 – class graduation

November TBA – Chapter meeting to conduct elections. Details to be developed at next Board meeting.

December - Christmas party hosted by Hays County Master Gardeners

President

Tom reported that he has been working with Marion and Brian on a workshop for small acreage land owners. Tentative date is October 28 at Freeman Ranch. It is anticipated to be a fundraiser for the chapter. Brian is seeking to get the Freeman Ranch gratis. Marion estimates catering costs from their kitchen will be approximately \$3/person (red beans, rice, paper good).. These costs will help determine fees. Once details are in place, including schedule, topics, fees, etc. Tom will ask for volunteers to help with catering, food prep, registration. Pre-registration will be required to help plan meals.

Tom has started a dialog with Andrea Dravigne at SM Nature Center about putting on a free workshop over there sometime this fall: a ½ day Native Plant propagation workshop with lecturer and greenhouse experience. Propagated plants will be covered in the workshop and held until next fall for sale, profiting the MNs.

The state meeting is October 20-22 at Mo Ranch.

Old Business

Awards

Dale would like to develop an awards plan with a couple of members to bring to the Board for consideration. He will try to have it ready by the August Board meeting.

Rainwater collection seminar

A ½ day seminar on this topic is under consideration by Marion for this fall. The first one would be at Jacob's Well (David is supportive). Dates undetermined.

New Business

Secretarial backup

Tom discussed the need for a backup for communications. Nancy will act as backup secretary for Susan as needed. Both are familiar with the Yahoo e-mail system. Susan will develop the membership data base now that Dixie has contacted all members for current info.

Policy on future parade participation

Susan asked the group to weigh the pros and cons of participating in parades as an outreach event. The consensus was that the chapter would probably participate in the July 4 parade only and pass on other invitations at this time.

Alternative training assignments

Nancy reported that makeup training for classes would include some alternate trainings instead of videos when videoing is not easy to accomplish.

The meeting was adjourned.