

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
February 2, 2012
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

In attendance:

Larry Calvert
Anne Child
Chris Middleton
Beth Ramey
Jeff Vasgaard
Lin Weber
Becky Northcut
Herb Smith
Art Arizpe
Helen Bowie
Lee Ann Linam
Mel Seib - Guest

Not present:

Eva Gomez
Richard Parrish
Leah Laszewski
Charles Maxey

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

The death of Master Naturalist Charles O'Dell in an accident in San Marcos the previous day was mentioned.

Chris Middleton agreed to send out a notice to members regarding his passing.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and modified. Lin Weber moved to approve the minutes and Anne Child seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

The timing of chapter meeting notices was discussed and it was agreed they should be sent out on the Thursday before the meeting. For Saturday meetings, the notice will be sent on the Thursday a week before the meeting. There was also discussion about advertising meetings in local newspapers and this was viewed as a good way to recruit new participants.

Anne Child agreed to follow up with determining how to get announcements into various local publications.

Larry Calvert led a discussion of how to use the survey taken at the previous social. One suggestion "Outreach to Urban Landowners" got the most attention. Suggestions for potential activities included:

- Joint work with the Master Gardeners,
- A plant exchange,
- Information on the Hays Master Naturalist website,
- An annual event.

Lee Ann Linam suggested working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Wildscapes program and provided two contact name, Mark Klym and Kelly Bender.

Anne Child provided the following preliminary list of speaker for 2012 Chapter Meetings. She explained that the ones shown in green have been tacked down while the others were tentative. There was also discussion of the 10/25 chapter meeting which coincides with the annual state meeting. It was generally agreed this was not a problem.

1/26 - DS Episcopal - Jane Tillman - Wintering Birds - *done*
2/23 - SM AgriLife - Carter Smith -TPWD "The Call of the Wild: Is Anyone Listening?"
3/22 - Kyle? - Nikki Dictson - TAMU - Plum Creek pollution
Sat. 4/28 - field trip to Cave without a Name - Ben Schwartz Tx State U hydrologist
5/24 - Wimberley? - Jesse Laske - UT scientist - Border fence
6/28 -SM AgriLife - still looking for a bat speaker
7/26 - Wimberley? - photography / writer / kids - interpreting nature
Sat 8/18 - Social at Blue Hole - Sky Lewey - Riparian management/ restoration - Hill Country Alliance
9/27 - Kyle?- Bastrop fires 1 year later - Meredith Longoria, Roxanne Hernandez & Daniel Lewis
10/25 - DS? - Tom Watson - sunflowers (conflicts with annual meeting)
11/17 - San Marcos - Gala
December - no meeting

Beth Ramey reviewed the budget and a few minor changes were made. Lin Weber moved to approve the budget as revised. Helen Bowie seconded the motion and the budget was approved unanimously.

While the audit had been approved at the previous meeting, the external auditor needs a letter certifying the results.

Beth Ramey agreed to follow up on securing the needed audit letter.

Jeff Vasgaard reported that he had turned in the required annual state report on Hays Master Naturalist activities.

Lin Weber reported that there had been 42 applications for this year's training program and 38 trainees were accepted. Five of the students are on scholarship with three of the scholarships covered in the budget and two coming from an anonymous donor. She also mentioned that there were approximately 12 names on the list for the 2013 class. Lin also reviewed a preliminary schedule for introducing board members to the class.

Becky Northcut reported that notices for Advanced training totaling 79 hours had been sent out in January.

Work on the website was discussed and the fact that the state is making progress on the template. With the new website, it will be possible for anyone to make changes to update items on the website, but they must first receive training on Wordpress.

Beth Ramey agreed to send Herb Smith a copy of the letter regarding the Master Naturalist 501(C)(3) status so he could proceed with setting up a Google calendar function.

Larry Calvert recommended that the website committee put together a set of recommendations for discussion at the next board meeting. He also requested that a draft of the recommendations be circulated prior to the meeting.

There was discussion of how a Master Naturalist can transfer from one chapter to another based on an outstanding request made to transfer into the Hays County chapter. It was determined that the requestor must provide a letter from their chapter certifying dues had been paid and providing the number of volunteer and advanced training hours they had accumulated to date. Additional training appropriate to our area of the state might also be required.

Lin Weber agreed to come up with a list of the classes that would be needed.

The problem of double reporting of volunteer hours was discussed. Lee Ann Linam provided some guidance and agreed to put together an article for the newsletter.

Mel Seib discussed plans the Caterpillar Camp at the Emily Ann Theater and the delivery of the larvae to classroom and other venue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.