

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting Agenda
March 13th, 2014 at 6:30 PM
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center

In attendance:

Art Arizpe, President
Karen Archer, VP
Larry Calvert, Past President
Beth Ramey, Treasurer
Dick McBride, Training Committee Chair
Helen Bowie, Host Committee
Beverly Gordon, Calendar Committee
Leah Laszewski, Membership Committee
Dixie Camp, Volunteer Services & State Representative
Susan Kimmel-Lions, Advanced Training
Richard Parrish, Extension Agent
Corrine Griener, Newsletter

Not Present:

Tracy Mock, Secretary
Herb Smith, Webmaster
Gordon Linam, TPWD Representative
Tom Watson, Historian
OPEN, Outreach Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm. Motion to approve the February minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

1. President – **Art Arizpe**
 - a. Announcements – Welcome new board members, Tom Watson as Historian and Corrine Griener as Newsletter Editor. Congratulations to the State Master Naturalist program for winning the TCEQ Environmental Excellence Award. Hays County Chapter provided the example of what the Master Naturalist program is about.
 - b. Board Calendar – Covered all action items from last meeting. A few calendar updates were made.

2. Vice President – **Karen Archer** – Karen has made arrangements for March meeting to be a field trip to Dead Man’s Hole. This will be a Saturday meeting to allow the greatest number of people to attend. Carpooling is necessary since this is private land and we don’t want to have too many cars parking. The April speaker will be Dr. Wilson from Texas A&M who will give a talk on Monarchs. There was a discussion about the possibility of Bracken Cave for the May meeting and the Board thought it was a good option.

3. Secretary – **Tracy Mock** – Not present

4. Treasurer – **Beth Ramey** – Budget report was reviewed. Richard moved that we approve the check for \$890.32 for the class curriculum; it was seconded by Helen, and approved.
5. AgriLife Agent – **Richard Parrish** - 32 Master Naturalists names and documents were sent for Youth Protection review and approval. Richard announced the following Well Water workshop.
 - a. April 9 bring a well water sample to Agrilife for analysis by 10 AM
 - b. April 10 Well Water Management Class sample analysis results are shared as a part of the class
6. TP&WD Representative – **Gordon Linam** – not present
7. Past President – **Larry Calvert** –
 - a. The Birding project Steering Team approved “Hays County Birding” as the official project name and also a logo for the project.
 - b. There was discussion about Larry’s request that HCMN donate the funds for the rainwater collection tank for the JWNA Birding Station. The County will be passing on to HCMN a \$160 donation they received from a JWNA tour group. Larry made a motion that HCMN donate \$326 and pass the \$160 donation through to the JWNA Birding Station project for the purchase of a rainwater tank; Beth seconded and it was approved.
 - c. Action Item: Larry will determine with Michelle if there are any concerns or rules about making such a donation
8. State Representative – **Dixie Camp** – TCEQ Meeting – Update given at the beginning of the meeting when we went over ‘Announcements’
9. Training Committee – **Dick McBride** – Lots of class member volunteer hours already turned in. One member was dropped after the first class. The Board asked if he wants to join next years class; if not the Board will reconsider a refund of his tuition. Action item: Dick will ask if the dropping person wants to join next years class and if so this year’s tuition will count for that class.
10. Advanced Training Committee – **Susan Kimmel-Lines** – Susan wants to broaden AT opportunities and asked the Board to recommend opportunities.
11. Membership Committee – **Leah Laszewski** – Reporting and feedback are going well.
12. Web Master – **Herb Smith** (not present)
13. Newsletter Committee and Editor – **Corrine Griener** – Corrine plans to have a contest to name the Newsletter. She is also considering a column that would tract the “first of the season - FOS” sightings. The FOS data would be made a part of the Climate Change project and be submitted to both the state and national databases. The Board decided to support this approach. Action items: Corrine (1) will check to see if the March newsletter is on the web, (2) will ask Tom Watson to do the Naturalist View for the April Newsletter, and (3) will reestablish the Project Hi-lite portion of the Newsletter.

14. Outreach Committee – **Leah Laszewski** (temporarily) – Leah presented the idea that we need someone on the Outreach committee to be responsible for tracking the number of people reached at each Outreach event. This would improve the accuracy of our annual reporting and make it so we didn't have to crunch at reporting time. **Action item: Leah will send out another blast to seek a volunteer to track outreach headcount.**
15. Host Committee – **Helen Bowie** – Helen reviewed the Dripping Springs Ranch Park as a possible Gala site. It is very primitive, they charge for everything used (tables, chairs, spoon, etc) by the piece, and according to Richard shift venues based on the size of the income generated. Gala would cost \$800 or more on the piece basis. Helen recommends that we do not consider this site and stay with our reservation at San Marcos Activity Center. The Board agreed with her assessment. Gala and the Social are now booked for the San Marcos Activity Center and John Knox respectively.
16. Historian – **Tom Watson** – not present
17. Volunteer Services – **Dixie Camp** –
 - a. Dixie had two requests for projects which she approved (1) fire fly watch, and (2) Bumble Bee watch
 - b. And requests for two projects she did not approve but included them in other current projects (1) Bastard Cabbage removal – outside of the project defined for San Marcos, and (2) bluebirds in San Marcos.
 - c. Dixie is considering project leader training to help them better manage their project.
 - d. Dixie led a discussion about grouping projects by subject area and she will consider the pros and cons.
 - e. **We discussed the fact that JWNA needs to develop a list of MN type projects. Action item: Art will discuss the details with Brooke.**
18. Calendar – **Beverly Gordon** – Clarified that she should include Emily Ann project events.
19. Adjourn – Beth made a motion to adjourn, Karen seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.