

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
May 3, 2012
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

In attendance:

Larry Calvert
Anne Child
Chris Middleton
Beth Ramey
Lin Weber
Art Arizpe
Leah Laszewski
Lee Ann Linam

Not present:

Richard Parrish
Becky Northcut
Helen Bowie
Herb Smith
Jeff Vasgaard
Eva Gomez
Charles Maxcy
Tom Hausler

The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM.

Action items associated with the previous month's meeting were reviewed with the following action items still open:

Larry Calvert agreed to get with Tom Hausler regarding written procedures for getting things on the calendar.

Larry Calvert agreed to call other Master Naturalist chapters to see if they are as concerned about potential liability issues and, if so, to determine what they have done about it.

Lee Ann Linam agreed to touch base with Michelle Haggerty to see where TP&W was on the issue and also agreed to get a copy of the volunteer protection policy from the state.

Becky agreed to send Chris Middleton an e-mail regarding a blanket permission for Waterlands training and to also send an e-mail to the program director, Amanda Ross, asking her to provide more notice.

Lin Weber moved to approve the April minutes with the amendment suggested by Larry Calvert and Leah Laszewski seconded the motion. The minutes were then unanimously approved.

Discussion of the need for a liability waiver was tabled and this issue will be put on the agenda for the June board meeting.

Anne Child discussed plans for this year's chapter meetings are complete and subsequently provided the attached schedule of speakers and locations. The newest addition to the speaker list is Professor Lemke from Texas State who will discuss invasive species. The full schedule for the remainder of the year as provided by Anne Child following the meeting is:

- 5/24 - Wimberley Presbyterian - Jesse Lasky -- UT Phd. - "Conservation biogeography of the US-Mexico border: a transcontinental risk assessment of barriers to animal dispersal".
- 6/28 -SM AgriLife - Sara Weaver - Tx State student - Mexican Free-tailed Bat research
- 7/26 -Kyle - Plum Creek - Nikki Dictson or others from TAMU - Plum Creek pollution
- Sat 8/18 - Social at Blue Hole - Sky Lewey of Hill Country Alliance - Riparian management/ restoration
- 9/27 - DS Episcopal - Professor Lemke Tx State - invasive plants including Bastard Cabbage
- 10/25 - Kyle Plum Creek- Meredith Longoria, Roxanne Hernandez & Daniel Lewis TPWD - Bastrop fires 1 year later

Donna Browning's request for a trip to Bracken Bat Cave was discussed. The board determined that adding this activity to an already full schedule would be too much to handle this year.

This year's social will be held at the new facility at Blue Hole in Wimberley and the food will be provided by the Host Committee. The following action items came out of the discussion:

Anne Child agreed to check out the size of the space available for project displays to determine how many can be accommodated.

Larry Calvert will ask Helen Bowie and Eva Gomez to come up with menu suggestions to be presented at the next board meeting.

Anne Child agreed to send out a "Save the Date" notice regarding the social for Chris Middleton to send out to the group.

Leah Laszewski suggested coming up with an activity like a trivia game to encourage mingling and she and Lin Weber agreed to work together to develop their ideas.

Beth Ramey distributed the budget report for April and noted that some expenses to date did not appear to jive with actual activities.

Beth Ramey agreed to follow up with the Host Committee to ensure they had submitted all receipts for food provided for various chapter activities.

Beth Ramey also reported that the asset list had been sent out, but was not yet complete. Discussion of whether the chapter needed to update its computer and other technology related equipment (e.g., projection equipment, screen, etc.). Leah Laszewski suggested that a small committee to come up with a recommendation on what is needed.

Lin Weber agreed to prepare an e-mail designed to locate chapter members with technology expertise to serve on the committee.

Lin Weber reported that the training class was going well and that the recent site visits involving two “urban” locations had been very successful. Discussion of whether training committee members should be required to pay for their meals at classes. Beth Ramey moved that this requirement be waived and Leah Laszewski seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

A letter from Michelle Haggerty regarding a test of the management database was discussed along with her request for us to run a test of the system. The project has a short fuse as it must be completed by May 15th. Lee Ann Linam suggested three steps as follows:

- Volunteers signing up on the system
- Project Organizers setting up projects
- Volunteers logging hours

Larry Calvert agreed to work with Beth Ramey to set up the testing.

Herb Smith sent a report that he would be getting the needed WordPress training on May 10th and that he expected to have more design questions for the next board meeting. He also reported that calendars had been set up for events, advanced training and volunteer projects and that he hoped to go live as soon as Tom Hausler had a chance to get things posted.

Art Arizpe talked about upcoming articles for the newsletter and reported he is still looking for someone to do the main article for the June newsletter.

Leah Laszewski reported she now had a liaison to every library in the county and that Susan Nenny had gotten the ball rolling for the 4th of July parade. Susan Nenny has also created cards for the speaker’s bureau and the Outreach committee has purchased two whiteboards and an easel and is planning to purchase a smaller

banner. She reported that the committee is continuing its efforts to get articles into local papers and that Louis Parks had agreed to act as editor. Leah also talked about the Outdoor Educators programs upcoming efforts to get a program up and running in Dripping Springs this fall.

Lee Ann Linam agreed to write something up in the newsletter on the inventory activities at Bamberger Ranch.

There was also a short discussion of plans for participation in the Wimberley July 4th parade.

Beth Ramey moved to adjourn the meeting and Lin Weber seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.