

**Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting Agenda**  
**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 PM**  
**Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm**

**In attendance:**

Art Arizpe, President  
Ben Adair, Membership  
Beth Ramey, Treasurer  
Helen Bowie, Host Committee  
Karen Archer, VP  
Larry Calvert, Past President  
Leah Laszewski, Outreach  
Lin Weber, Training  
Richard Parrish, Extension Agent  
Tracy Mock, Secretary

**Not Present:**

Charles Maxcy, Historian  
Dixie Camp, State Representative  
Herb Smith, Webmaster  
Kim Ort, Advanced Training  
Lee Ann Linam, TPWD Representative  
Lisa Kay, Newsletter  
Tom Hausler, Volunteer Service Projects

1. President – **Art Arizpe**
  - a. **Approval of the August minutes.** A motion was made by Helen to approve the August minutes. Motion seconded by Lin & approved by the Board.
  - b. **Review of August action items** – 1.) Regarding the item for Ben to send the hours reports to the Board for review, Art said he spoke to Ben yesterday and he is supposed to attend this meeting. 2.) Larry forwarded the MN directory to Secretary. 3.) Secretary corrected Lisa Kay's email in the email contacts list. 4.) Dick was going to write an article for the newsletter regarding open Training Committee positions for next year, but the Committee is selected & is filled. 5.) Art prepared a summary of all the Board positions to prepare for next year. 6.) Art sent emails soliciting help with the August Social. Everyone was very impressed with the results. The Social seemed to go smoothly, and we received many positive comments.
  - c. **Announcements** – 1.) Helen announced recent presentation done by Larry and Christine to the Garden Club (Outreach), very well done. Two more presentations are coming up. 2.) Naturescapes Photo Awards Reception is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 – 7 pm.
  - d. **Board Calendar** – **ACTION ITEM**: Art will follow up with Lisa to see if any newsletter photos were sent for the State Conference.  
**ACTION ITEM**: Art & Larry – Gather a 2014 nominations & awards committee - in process, volunteers have been solicited. The year

end Gala is scheduled for Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. **ACTION ITEM:** Membership (Ben) needs to order dragonfly pins. **ACTION ITEM:** Beth will prepare information for the Oct Board meeting so the Audit committee can prepare for the Gala.

- e. Survey Results from the August Social – Art shared the results of the survey from the Social. **ACTION ITEM:** Art will look into MN with physical limitations (Emeritus status?). **ACTION ITEM:** Ask Tom to write something for the newsletter about volunteer project suggestions, ongoing discussions & mentoring.

2. Vice President – **Karen Archer**

- a. **Plans for the September meeting** – Thur. 9/26 at White Wings, David Ribble from Trinity Univ. will talk about Diversity & Changes at Bamberger Ranch. **ACTION ITEM:** The website needs to be updated to reflect the speaker and location.

3. Secretary – **Tracy Mock** – nothing to report.

4. Treasurer – **Beth Ramey** – 1.) The question came up regarding a \$500 donation for the TMN State Conference in October. Leah made a motion that we donate \$500 which is the same amount as last year. Larry seconded and the motion passed. 2.) Regarding conference scholarships for our members to attend the state meeting...It was decided, as in the past, that chapter member who ends up being a presenter at the conference will be awarded \$100 scholarship. So far, no other members have asked for scholarship to attend. 3.) Karen Boden's movie, she is making copies on dvd & giving to folks who will make a donation. This is an approved volunteer project. There were suggestions that the movie be shown at the State Conference and perhaps at the Gala. The movie is approximately 20" long. 4.) Beth needs membership report from Ben to match to the dues paid list. 5.) **ACTION ITEM:** Audit Committee (Art, Karen, & Richard) will arrive 1 hr. early for the Oct. board meeting to audit Beth's books.

5. AgriLife Agent – **Richard Parrish** – Because of its popularity, there are plans to bring back the speaker on October 19 for a rainwater harvesting workshop. It will probably be held in the Manchaca area due to a partnering with Travis Co.

6. TP&WD Representative – **Lee Ann Linam (absent)**

7. Past President – **Larry Calvert** –

- a. MN directory sent to Secretary for cross-check. It is already updated for recent changes as well as the addition of the 2013 trainees. The directory can be opened from the members area on our website. The password is \*\*\*\*\*. Also posted on the website is the request to please do not share list.
- b. Bert Cobb - Fund bird blinds for Hays County? Eco-tourism idea, a good way to bring visitors to the area, but the county doesn't have the expertise, so it is proposed to partner with MN experts. This project would need a motivated leader, and perhaps other partnering

with local birding groups. Richard said he would be happy to act as liaison for a long term project like this. Larry is asking Board members to think about it & have further discussions. As a side note, Peggy Wilfong has been working for the past year on a companion map to go with the Birder's Checklist that shows all the public places in Hays County for birding opportunities. **ACTION ITEM:** Get message out about who is interested in forming an exploratory committee.

8. State Representative – **Dixie Camp (absent)**
9. Training Committee – **Lin Weber** – There are currently 28 trainees that are eligible to graduate, with 2 more classes to go (Knox Ranch & grasses class). The Bamberger fieldtrip is scheduled for this Saturday. Volunteer hours reported so far this year is in excess of 1,200 hours. This has been a really motivated & involved group of trainees.
10. Advanced Training Committee – **Kim Ort (absent)**
11. Membership Committee – **Ben Adair**
  - a. Hours reporting status – Data entry is currently only 3 weeks behind... **ACTION ITEM:** Ben will get individual, detailed reports to members within the next 3 weeks. Everyone is going to want to see the details rather than summary information since it has not been sent yet this year. Only the Trainees have seen a status report so far this year. Beth needs the list of people and their hours to track for Recertification purposes. **ACTION ITEM:** Beth also owes the Dues report to Ben to cross check.
  - b. **ACTION ITEM:** Order dragonfly pins
  - c. **ACTION ITEM:** Figure out awards for Gala.
12. Web Master – **Herb Smith (absent)**
13. Newsletter Committee and Editor – **Lisa Kay (absent)**
14. Outreach Committee – **Leah Laszewski** – Not much to report this time except the Speakers bureau is getting lots of requests for presentations. There is a need for more speakers and Jane Durham is going to lead this effort by way of a sub-committee of Outreach.
15. Host Committee – **Eva Gomez (absent) and Helen Bowie** – 1.) Social was a huge success. 92 attendees, 76 members & trainees, 14 paid guests, 8 no-shows. The presentation on quail was well received. Door prizes were great. Food was great. This same location (John Knox Ranch) is already reserved for next years Social, to be held on Saturday, August 16, 2014. 2.) We are still seeking a caterer for the Gala. Trainees eat for free. Everyone else will be \$12. Cost will actually end up being closer to \$15. there was discussion by the Board about how the Chapter usually absorbs the excess cost of this event and it was decided to keep the member cost to \$12 and continue to absorb the cost overages.

16. Historian – **Charles Maxcy (absent)**

17. Volunteer Services – **Tom Hausler (absent)**

18. Calendar – **Tom Hausler (absent)**

19. Adjourn – Lin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Larry, and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.