

Texas
Master
Naturalist



Hays County Master Naturalist

January 23, 2003
Meeting Minutes

The meeting took place at the Extension Office. Eleven members were present.

Business Meeting: Called to order by Dell Hood at 7:15 PM.

Dell Hood introduced the officers for 2003. Dell is serving as President; Winifred Simon as Vice President; Betty Watkins as Secretary, and Alice Johnson is returning as Treasurer. Dell thanked David Schwartz for his service as President in 2002.

David Schwartz reported that the application for 501(3)c status has been submitted and was in process.

Dell opened a discussion of our chapter's Volunteer Projects. Deb Lewis agreed to chair a Volunteer Committee consisting of individual Project Coordinators. Joe Piazza explained the role of Mentors that the Education Committee had proposed to assist the members of the training class become involved in various chapter projects. The suggestion was made that they could also work with the Volunteer Committee.

The identification, approval, and recruitment of volunteers for projects was discussed. The consensus was that some projects would be chapter sponsored, but that members could also work on individual projects so long as they met the guidelines for Master Naturalist volunteer activities. Deb Lewis agreed to start developing some information on Chapter Projects.

Richard Barnett reported the status of the Master Naturalists project at the San Marcos Nature Center. Deb Lewis reported on recent activities at Aquarena Center. Betty Watkins will discuss the current needs of the project at DeZavala School with school staff and coordinate activities there with Master Gardeners. Dell reported on the Wimberley Refuge activities. Randy Moss clarified some questions about the Extension Service landscaping. Winifred Simon explained the current system for landowner site visits. When there is a request for a visit, the office staff calls a designated Master Naturalist from the area where the landowner lives about making the visit. Dell, the volunteer from Wimberley, stated that the difficulty was that he did not have information about other possible volunteers and so had to do all of the visits himself. The question of

qualifications of volunteers who do site visits was also raised. No conclusions were drawn. Dell expressed the opinion that the Chapter should be more involved in ecological education projects with young people in the county.

Joe Piazza asked who is responsible for approving advanced training and volunteer hours. Dell Hood indicated that approval for advanced training hours was currently his responsibility. The approval for volunteer hours would be done by Deb Lewis, Chair of the Volunteer Committee, for chapter approved projects. Judy Telford is the chair of the Records Committee for both the Chapter and the class. All volunteer hours and advanced training hours should be reported to her.

Dell announced that Rachel Bauer had requested more responsibility for the monthly newsletter be taken by the Chapter. Melissa Brooks agreed to accept that responsibility. Richard Barnett will assist her. She will meet with Rachel soon about the newsletter.

Dell initiated a discussion of alumni follow-up and inactive members. Currently in progress is an attempt to get current information about all who have attended Master Naturalist classes through a mailed Update Form. Betty Watkins reported that of 140 forms mailed out, she have received only about 45 replies. She suggested trying to contact those who had not responded by phone before making any decisions. Betty will contact those in the San Marcos area, Dell in the Wimberley area, and Karen Hayward in the Driftwood/Dripping Springs area. This topic will be addressed again after the calls are made.

Dell announced a visit to Billy Kniffen in Menard on March 29. They will try to arrange carpools for all who are interested.

The meeting was adjourned by Dell Hood at 8:50 PM.