

Texas  
Master  
Naturalist



## Hays County Master Naturalist

October 23, 2003  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Extension Office and preceded by a Pot-Luck supper. Thirteen members were present.

**PROGRAM:** Vice President Winifred Simon introduced Ken Saunders who spoke about Riparian Buffer Zones. These Buffer Zones are unique ecosystems that are links between land and water and fish and wildlife. They also provide wildlife corridors for movement between areas. Appropriate riparian buffer zones help slow down erosion by slowing down water movement; collect non-point pollution before it enters the water; and flood control. These buffer zones provide the most effective method of protecting our water quality.

Plans for restoring buffer zones should consider the local land use and topography, type of soil (wetter soils require wider buffer zones); and steepness of slope (steeper slopes need greater widths). The wider the buffer zone, the healthier the aquatic food web will be. Restoration efforts should start on the bank to control erosion. As vegetation matures it will move down the bank and into the edge of the water. Tall native grasses are good plantings for buffer zones. Buffer zones should ideally cover the entire flood plain of the river or stream.

**ADVANCED TRAINING:** 1 hour.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** President Dell Hood called the meeting to order. Winifred Simon, Chair of the Nomination Committee announced the following slate of officers for 2004: President, Dell Hood; Vice President Randy Moss; Secretary, Betty Watkins; Treasurer, Winifred Simon. Nominations from the floor will be taken before officers are elected at the November meeting.

Dell made the following announcements: Volunteer Project Forms for 2004 need to be submitted. A volunteer is needed to be Chapter Web Master. At the November meeting we need to discuss meeting structure and Advanced Training for 2004. Randy Moss suggested holding meetings in different parts of the county. Dell asked for suggestions for places to meet. Several suggestions were given.

Dell presented the request from the Extension Office to provide a contribution for purchasing outside lighting at the Extension Building. Dave

Schwartz moved to donate \$200 for a lighting fixture; Joe Piazza seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Kay Beth Williams asked if we should provide a small gift to speakers at chapter meetings. Dell will purchase some items for that purpose. Betty Watkins requested that Annual Membership Forms for 2004 be turned in as soon as possible. Dell recognized Winifred Simon and Shirley Danforth for providing a display board for the State Meeting. Joe Piazza reported on the Training Class.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Watkins, Secretary  
Hays County Master Naturalist