



Hays County Master Naturalist

November 17, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Richard Barnett, Gary Barr, Jamie Kinscherff, Minnette Marr, Randy Moss, Joe Piazza, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, Nancy Turner and Tom Watson.

The meeting was held at the Extension Office, with a pot luck dinner at 6:30 and a business meeting from 7:15 - 9:30.

Vice-president Randy Moss called the meeting to order in the absence of Dell Hood, president.

Winifred Simon gave the treasurer's report (attached). The association has one checking account, and after the extension office turned over all financial responsibility for the class to the association, we have kept two ledgers. The class has a current balance of \$2,387.85 and the association has a current balance of \$1,991.88.

Forty five people have paid dues for the current year. The report was accepted.

Joe Piazza gave a recap of the previous night's graduation dinner for the class of 2004, which was held at the Unity Church in Wimberley. Billy Kniffen gave a presentation on Land Stewardship, with an emphasis on Aldo Leopold. Bryan Davis gave a welcome to the graduates, along with a request to continue contributing volunteer time to the association in the coming years. The dinner was a great success for the 21 graduates and their families and friends.

In his capacity as chairman of the nominating committee, Randy presented the following slate of officers for 2005:

President: Randy Moss
Vice-president: Tom Watson
Secretary: Nancy Turner
Treasurer: Winifred Simon

The slate was unanimously approved.

Randy presented a list of the association meetings and field trips for 2004 (attached) and asked for suggestions for 2005 meetings. He explained that in previous years the association had held monthly advanced training meetings, usually the Extension Office with attendance ranging from about 10-20 members. The change to more field trips in 2004 seems to have sparked more interest, and Randy suggested that this format be continued in 2005. It was agreed that more outside activities hold the greater appeal.

Suggestions for 2005 programs included Dr. Dede Armentrout (Mountain Lion Foundation of Texas), one or more programs focusing on photography, and more coordination with the class field trips and site visits.

Randy passed out draft versions of the species lists so far compiled for the chapter's "Snapshot of Hays County." These include the plants of the county by common name, scientific name and family name, a list of plants documented for Travis County which are not on our list, a list of exotic plants in Texas (with notation of those already on our list), birds, butterflies, lizards, salamanders, frogs and toads, turtles, snakes and mammals.

It was suggested that a photo documentation of some of the grasses or other plants might be considered and that a photography class might be scheduled to coordinate such a project.

Randy announced that the annual Christmas dinner with the Master Gardeners will be held at the Extension Office on Thursday, December 16th.

Minnette Marr agreed to be the volunteer project coordinator with the help from Jamie, Tom and Judy.

Joe had some questions about the volunteer project approval process and suggested that the procedure be explained in the newsletter. He has a project which needs approval. Randy said that the project had been approved and that he would assign it a number after speaking to Betty Watkins.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Winifred Simon