

# Minutes of Hays County Master Naturalist Meeting

January 24, 2002, 6:30 p.m., Hays County Extension Office

1. The chapter officially welcomed the new Extension Agent, Rachel Ann Williams Bauer, to Hays County and to our Master Naturalist program. Rachel worked with the Master Naturalist program in her previous position in Bastrop County, and looks forward to learning more about Hays County with us.

2. After some delicious food, we heard Gary Waggenerman of Texas Parks & Wildlife talk about white-winged doves (*Zenaida asiatica*). This species of dove has been expanding its nesting range considerably over the past 50 years or so, and has recently appeared as far north as Canada and Alaska. Gary said Bexar County now has more white-winged dove nests than any county in the United States; for comparison, check out the map of its range in the second edition (1987) of the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America, where they are limited to extreme south Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. Gary said that historically the birds never came farther north than San Antonio, and they then all migrated south to Mexico and Central America. The main factor behind their expansion northward has been the destruction of their preferred habitats in south Texas, particularly the loss of citrus groves and sub-tropical woodlands. To survive the doves have become particularly adept at exploiting conditions around human settlements. Gary described the technique used to count white-wings - by the intensity of their calls during a 3-week long mating period. There are opportunities for Master Naturalists to get involved here in helping TPW with censusing of the doves; Gary said he and his colleagues will be developing training for neophytes in the coming year and looks forward to having volunteers interested in working in Hays County.

### 3. Business Meeting:

A. President David Schwartz welcomed six graduates of last year's class and encouraged them to continue as active members.

B. Outgoing Treasurer John Duguid reported that as of December 31, 2001, we had \$682.40 in our bank account. We are losing \$7 a month in bank fees, which John said will be remedied. Our main expenses so far have been for postage and printing checks.

C. David said there have been problems with water drainage and rodents in the Extension Office building, and the county maintenance people want to pull out all the plant beds around the building. This would destroy all the work Billy and many volunteers put into the native plant demonstration beds. Jimmy Lovejoy has agreed to work with the maintenance officials on the problem; French drains may be installed to solve the water infiltration problems.

D. Chapter dues of \$12 are due now for 2002; the deadline for payment is March 31 to remain a voting member of the chapter. If dues are not paid by May 31, a member is dropped from the chapter. Checks can be mailed to our Treasurer, Alice Johnson, at 2650 Rolling Oak Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-5023.

E. Wayne Kochendorfer, graduate of last year's class and a new member of the chapter, presented a check for \$500 to the chapter as a matching contribution by Exxon-Mobil for his volunteer service. For every dollar of service time given by an Exxon-Mobil employee, the company provides a three dollar match. Many thanks to Wayne and to Exxon-Mobil!

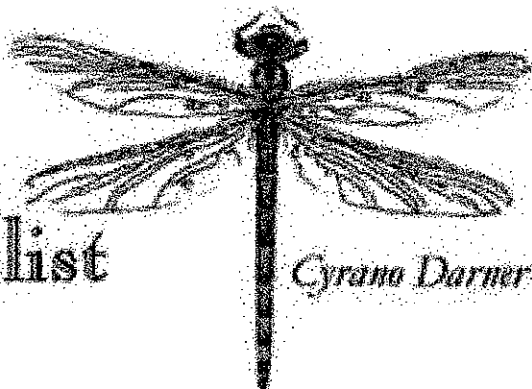
F. Outgoing Treasurer John Duguid reported he has been unable to get the chapter registered as a non-profit group with the Secretary of State because that office thinks our name is too close to that of another chapter. David read part of a letter from state coordinator Michelle Hagarty notifying chapters they should adopt names that avoid potential confusion with those of other groups. Michelle offered two suggestions, one of which, Hays County Master Naturalists, the chapter voted 12-2 to adopt. Henceforth, all chapter members should use this name in all official communications, written and oral.

G. David asked for volunteers for the Program, Newsletter, Publicity, Records and Volunteer Coordination committees. Members discussed using the 2002 class newsletter for chapter news and information; members can be added to the distribution list. Members agreed that some form of publicity is needed, to help recruit members for new classes and for special events. The committee need not function as a full year entity; it could be done on an as-needed basis only. As for Records, Joe Piazza said that a member of the new class has taken on this responsibility for the class, and he will ask if that person would do it for the chapter as a whole. For Volunteer Coordination, Claudette Harrell and Judy Telford said they are in San Marcos and can keep in touch with the Extension Office as requests for volunteer assistance come in.

H. Volunteer Opportunities: David said the greenhouse interpretive center always has work available for volunteers who want to work. You need only show up, ask the center staff what they need and they will give you a job.

I. Advanced Training: Dell Hood reviewed the guidelines for approving advanced training that qualifies for chapter hours. The most important criterion is that the event must be relevant to and useful to what we do to assist the Extension Office. Opportunities can be approved either in advance or after the fact. Some opportunities that are approved automatically include programs and training offered by the Bambergers at Selah Ranch, work at Freeman Ranch, the speaker programs of the monthly chapter meetings, most of the programs at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Holistic Resource Management programs, and Texas River Watch training. Members who want a program approved for advanced training should supply some information about who is leading the program, what material is covered, when and where the program is held, and the number of hours involved. The March 23, 2002 Wildlife Management Workshop to be held at the San Marcos Activity Center will provide an opportunity for six hours of advanced training for anyone who attends the full program.

Texas  
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## Hays County Master Naturalists

### February 28, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Debbie Anderson, John Duguid, Claudette Harrell, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Alice Johnson, Tommy Peterson, Buck Sheib, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, Wayne Underwood, Betty Watkins and two guests.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: Jack Dougherty, owner of the First Texas Olive Oil Company, discussed the history and importance of the olive industry and the young olive industry in Texas. He planted 800 olive trees in June, 1998 on about 10 acres of his 172 acre Bella Vista Ranch, six miles NW of Wimberley. Olive trees take at least three years to begin producing, and Jack harvested his first crop in the summer of 2001. The olives were pressed and the oil extracted by centrifuge at the orchard. Tours are offered on Saturdays at 2:00pm during the season. Their web address is: [www.bvranch.com](http://www.bvranch.com). (Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

### **Business meeting:**

Dell Hood, Vice-President, presided over the meeting.

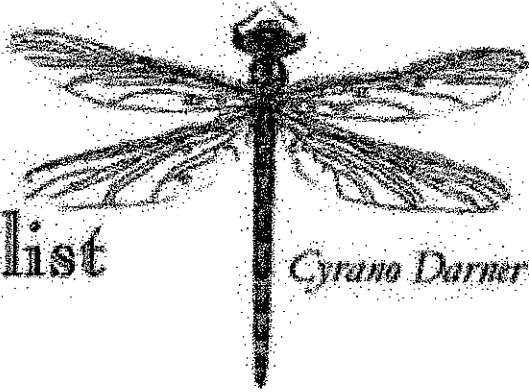
- 1) A Wildlife Management Workshop will be held March 23, 2002 at the San Marcos Activity Center beginning at 9:00 am. Attendees will earn six hours of Advanced Training.
- 2) A five-day long prescribed burn seminar will be held at the Wildflower Center from June 3 - 7, 2002. The fee is \$500 if paid by May 7 and \$600 after. Advanced Training hours would be earned.
- 3) The Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and the Extension Office will share a booth at the San Marcos Home and Garden Show, April 13. Volunteers are needed.

4) The Master Gardeners next meeting will be on March 14 and will include a discussion of the San Marcos Parks. Bring a salad (other food will be provided) for the potluck. All Master Naturalists are invited to attend.

The next chapter meeting will be a field trip to Jacob's Well on either Saturday, March 23 or Saturday, March 30. There will be a video presentation which covers their various programs, restoration, and watershed management. The program will be approximately 2-2 1/2 hours long. Date and time will be available from the Extension Office when confirmed by Dell.

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

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## Hays County Master Naturalists

March 30, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Joe Elizarde, Claudette Harrell, Alice Johnson, Dell Hood, Bob Reed, Dave Schwartz, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, Rachel Bauer (Extension Agent) and guests: Jean Elizarde, Rebecca Williams and Ralph Tijerina.

Meeting took place at Jacob's Well.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: David Baker, Executive Director of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA). Mr. Baker gave a slide presentation of the history of Jacob's Well, an artesian spring, over the last 150 years. The spring is the primary source for Cypress Creek and is the deepest underwater cave in Texas. The WVWA, founded in 1996, has about 300 members and as the steward of Jacob's Well is attempting to maintain the water flow and quality. The WVWA has four main areas of focus:

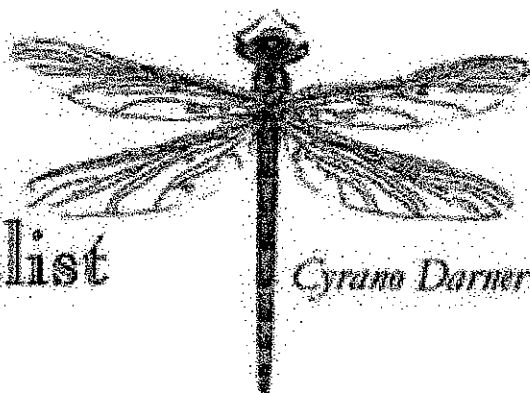
- 1) Conservation Services
- 2) Conservation Education
- 3) Arts and Culture
- 4) Science

The WVWA will be opening an office at Poco Rio, Ste. 300 on April 19th, phone - 847-2868. They will be holding their Spring Fest fund raiser on April 27th at Cypress Creek Cafe.

After the presentation, the HCMN took a tour of Jacob's Well guided by Matt Heinemann,  
(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

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## Hays County Master Naturalists

April 25, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Joe Piazza, Claudette Harrell, Dell Hood, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, Roy Petersen, Shirley Danforth, Deb Lewis, Penny Stone, and Wayne Kochenderfer.

The meeting took place at the Extension Office.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: Carolyn Vogel, Texas Parks & Wildlife Coordinator of the Texas Land Trust Council. Topic: Land Trusts and Conservation Easements as Land Management Practices.

Current challenges to the Texas landscape include urban sprawl and the aging of the rural landowner, leading to increased land fragmentation. In the next 10-15 years more land is expected to change hands than in any previous period.

There are 36 non-profit Land Trusts in Texas. They hold the Conservation Easements which are donated (or sold) by land owners and may own land as well. Most work very locally and coordinate with planning commissions and educational efforts.

Using Conservation Easements, landowners donate (or sell) certain development rights to a Land Trust, city or county and receive 1) lower property valuations for tax purposes, 2) estate tax benefits, and 3) donation value for income taxes benefit. Conservation Easements are in perpetuity.

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

**Business Meeting:** Dell Hood chaired the business meeting. Joe Piazza presented Master Naturalists certificates to Claudette Harrell, Deb Lewis and Judy Telford.

Penny Stone announced that she will have a MN booth with the rain simulator at the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association Spring Fest fundraiser.

Joe Piazza suggested that the Master Naturalists request a key to the meeting room. The secretary will make the request to Rachel. (Note: Rachel told me that it is against county regulations for us to have a key to the meeting room).

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

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## Hays County Master Naturalists

May 23, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Joe Piazza, Claudette Harrell, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, Roy Petersen, Shirley Danforth, Alice Johnson, Buck Scheib, Anna Fisher, Ann Allen, Richard Barnett, Ken Harding, Jill Harding, and Wayne Kochenderfer.

The meeting took place at the National Fish Hatchery.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: Paula Power of the National Fish Hatchery.

The program began with a tour of the wild rice and salamander tanks and a description of the ongoing research.

Following that, we toured the prairie restoration project which began in 1988 on a very overgrown pasture. The 125 acres where the fish hatchery is located had historically been blackland prairie, but was almost 75% introduced grasses when the project began. A healthy prairie be very diverse in plant species and consist of approximately 50% forbs. Reseeding was begun in the fall of 1998 and a 60 acre burn was done in February, 2002.

The Fish Hatchery is one of our Chapter partners and will be continuing to request volunteers for this restoration project.

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

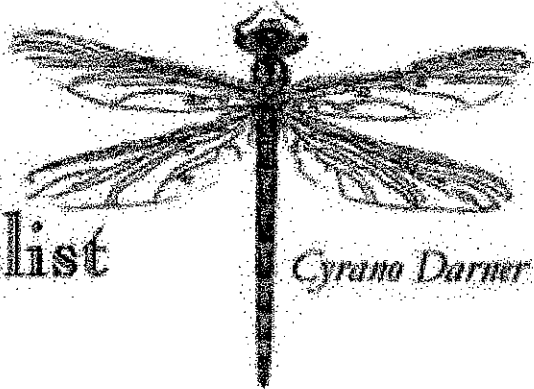
Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary



Table 1. Percent cover of grasses, forbs, and woody plants at San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center. Data were collected by Hays County Master Naturalist students under the guidance of extension agent, Billy Kniffen. Ten sixty foot line transects were randomly sampled within a 2 acre plot. All species touching the line transect was identified and recorded.

	Cover (%)	
	Fall 1998	Spring 1999
<b>GRASSES</b>		
<u>Native</u>		
Bushy Bluestem	0.05	0.3
Silver Bluestem	0.17	0
<u>Introduced</u>		
King Ranch Bluestem	21.3	19.0
Silky Bluestem	53.7	36.6
Johnson grass	0.3	0.4
<b>TOTAL GRASSES</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>56.3</b>
<b>FORBS</b>		
<u>Beneficial for Monarch Butterflies</u>		
Maximilian Sunflower	0.2	6.3
Goldenrod	4.5	2.8
<u>Other forbs</u>		
Prairie agalinis	0.07	0.1
Anemone	1.45	
White Aster	2.65	
Bluet	3.63	0.4
Mustard	0.1	
Primrose	0.22	3.3
Snailseed weed	0.13	
Western Horse Nettle	0.08	0.2
Thistle	0.2	
Unknown species	0.05	2.7
Prairie Verbena	0.13	0.04
Western Ragweed	0.57	0.3
Wild Carrot		0.1
Indian Blanket		0.2
Bedstraw		0.6
Wild Geranium		0.1
Lindheimer's Daisy		0.1
Frog-fruit		0.2
Red-seeded Plantain		9.0
Texas Parsley		7.8
Mealy Blue Sage		0.2
Butterweed		0.03
Prairie Verbena		0.04
<b>TOTAL FORBS</b>	<b>14.05</b>	<b>34.3</b>
<b>SHRUBS AND WOODY PLANTS</b>		
Acacia	0.05	
Dewberry	4.15	1.1
<b>TOTAL SHRUBS AND WOODY PLANTS</b>	<b>4.20</b>	
<b>BARE GROUND TOTAL</b>	<b>6.53</b>	<b>8.1</b>

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## Hays County Master Naturalists

June 27, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Alleen Barnett, Richard Barnett, Barbara Coldwell, John Duguid, Anna Fisher, Mary Fulton, Jan Gauvan, Catherine Glesenn, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Alice Johnson, Deb Lewis, Randy Moss, Roy Petersen, Joe Piazza, Buck Scheib, Dave Schwartz, Winifred Simon, Dorothy Stinson, Stanley Tarzanov, Judy Telford.

The meeting took place at the Extension Office.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: Dr. Glen Rydl, retired professor of horticulture at SWTSU.

Dell Hood introduced Dr. Rydl, who spoke on insects, described as being six legged with three body parts (head, thorax and abdomen), one pair of antennae, two compound eyes and three simple eyes. Most insects, but not all, are winged and have either a chewing mouth part or a piercing, sucking mouth part.

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

**Business Meeting:** After the program, a business meeting was held with Dave Schwartz, president, conducting the meeting. The secretary reported that there were no minutes to read as the last monthly meeting was a field trip.

Alice Johnson, treasurer, reported that the bank statements have been going to the previous treasurer, John Duguid, and that our account balance is approximately \$1,400.

Dave led a discussion of "non-profit" status, and several members wondered if it was desirable. Dave called for 2002 dues to be paid and also for program ideas.

Joe Piazza, curriculum chair, gave an update on the current training class. There will be a field trip to the Bamburger Ranch this weekend. Joe also reported that all current training sessions are being videotaped to allow students to make up missed classes more easily

Judy Telford brought a butterfly weed seedling as a door prize, which was won by Dave Schwartz in a drawing.

Volunteer opportunities were announced:

The San Marcos Interpretive Center needs lots of weeding.

Wild Rice Monitoring will take place July 8-12.

A Work Day at the Extension Office will take place the morning of July 13, with both master naturalists and master gardeners needed.

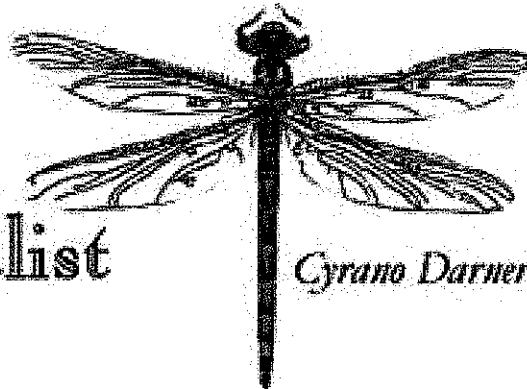
Joe Piazza reported that a water monitoring training session will be held this Saturday in Kyle.

Winifred Simon reported that the chapter web site has now been updated and encouraged everyone to visit it. The address is:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~bellocampos/masternaturalist.html>

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

Texas  
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Naturalist



*Cyrano Darner*

## Hays County Master Naturalists

July 25, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Richard Barnett, Annette Berry, Curtis Chubb, Shirley Danforth, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Vicky Mathews, Randy Moss, Joe Piazza, Dave Schwartz, Winifred Simon, Wayne Underwood, and Betty Watkins.

The meeting took place at the Extension Office.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: Curtis Chubb, Topic: Rainwater Harvesting

Dell Hood introduced Curtis, who designs and installs rainwater harvesting systems, and who presented an excellent overview of the topic. Curtis covered reasons to collect rainwater, uses for rainwater, factors affecting the success of collection, and the various components of a collection system.

Curtis referred to the Texas Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, an excellent resource which can be located online at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/RainHarv.pdf>

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

**Business Meeting:** There was no business meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

Hays County Master Naturalist Association

August 22, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Hays County Extension Office, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Continuing Education: Speaker: Rachel Bauer, County Extension Agent  
Topic: New 4-H wildlife and fisheries modules

Rachel reviewed the four new environmental science teaching modules which have been developed by the Texas 4-H program. These self-contained, inter-active teaching units are designed for students who are not in the 4-H program and who may not be inclined to the natural sciences. They are aimed at grades 3 and 4, and include display boards, videotapes, CDs, teaching materials and manuals, and pre-unit and post-unit assessments. The four units are:

Predators in the Classroom - Grade 4

Something Fishy - Grade 4

Wildlife Success Stories and Endangered Species - Grade 3

White-tailed Deer - Grade 3.

Each unit includes group activity to help students learn several sides of the issues raised, and to let students learn the dynamics of negotiating and compromise.

Rachel said the individual units are rather expensive, at \$14,000 or more, but they can be shared among several schools or even counties. She hopes to be able to arrange for one or more to be available through our Extension Office, and will see if a multi-county sharing arrangement could make the others available.

Association members were impressed by the materials and agreed they would be very useful in Hays County schools. They encouraged Rachel to try to get one or more of the modules for our schools.



Hays County Extension  
 1253 Civic Center Loop  
 San Marcos, TX. 78666

NAME OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY OR EVENT Master Naturalist Association Mtg

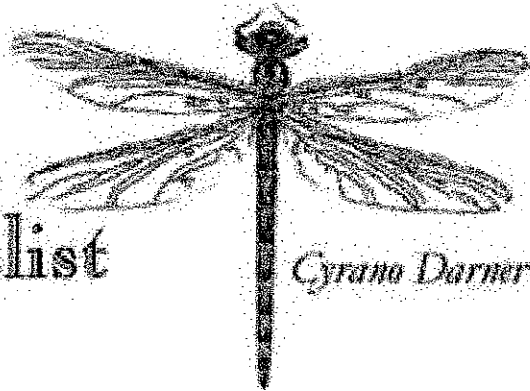
LOCATION Extension Office

COUNTY Hays

DATE August 22, 2002

NAME	ADDRESS (Please include street, town, and zip code)	PHONE
1. JOE PIAZZA	204 Decatur Dr	
2. DELL HOOD	501 Green Acres, Wimberley	847-1231
3. DAUR SCHWARTZ	801 Windmill Cove, Wimberley	847-0287
4. Judy Telford	2303 E McCarty	245-2073 353 8143 H
5. RICHARD BARNETT	103 Overlook Circle Wimberley TX 78676	847-6941
6. Betty Derlathen	1061 Martindale Falls	357-9967
7. RANDY MOSS	16500 RANCH RD 12 WIMBERLEY 78676	847-5132
8. ALICE JOHNSON	2651 RAINING CRKS, SM	396-4991
9. Ann Allen	PO Box 535 Martindale	357 2515
10. Mary Fulton	P.O. Box 1912 Wimberley	847-5472
11. Wendy Lovejoy	2900 FM 165 Dripping Springs	858-1526
12. Jimi Lovejoy	"	"
13.		
14.		
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18.		
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## Hays County Master Naturalists

September 26, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Ann Allen, Richard Barnett, Alleen Barnett (guest), Bert Cobb, Shirley Danforth, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Alice Johnson, Wayne Kochenderfer, Roy Petersen, Joe Piazza, Buck Scheib, Dave Schwartz, Winifred Simon, and Judy Telford.

The meeting took place at the Extension Office.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: Eric Beckers, Texas Forest Service  
Topic: Oak Wilt Management in Texas

Dell Hood introduced Mr. Beckers, who presented a brief historical perspective of oak trees in our area, gave a short history of oak wilt in the US, covered the ways the disease is spread, and presented the Forest Service's advice for prevention.

Historically our area of Central Texas was probably about 40% grasslands with mosaics of trees in uplands and forested creek beds. With the reduction of fires, trees (especially junipers and oaks) have multiplied, and that growth in density may have contributed to the problem of oak wilt.

First identified in the north in the 1940's, the infectious disease oak wilt was discovered in Texas in 1961, and is now in over 62 counties in the state. It is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. All oaks are susceptible, but the red oaks and live oaks are the most vulnerable. White oaks (post, bur and chinkapin) are fairly resistant to the fungus.

Red oaks (Spanish, Shumard and blackjack) play a key role in the establishment of new disease centers because fungal mats form beneath their bark. Sap-feeding nitidulid beetles carry the spores from the mats to fresh wounds in healthy trees, which then become infected. Approximately 10% of the spread of oak wilt can be attributed to spread by insect vectors.

The other 90% occurs by spread through the grafted root systems common in live oaks. These new centers of infection expand at an average rate of 50 feet per year.

Infected Spanish oaks must be removed or destroyed as quickly after infection, as the fungal mats will continue to spread the disease. The Forest Service has a program to help landowners pay for the removal.

Prevention also includes painting all new wounds in oak trees with a thin coat, sanitizing cutting tools with Lysol, trenching at least 150 feet away from any infection, exercising caution with firewood of unknown origin and infusing live oaks with the fungicide Alamo.

The Forest Service recommends planting a variety of disease resistant trees. Additional information may be obtained at the Oak Wilt Hotline (512-473-3517) and at [www.txforestservice.tamu.edu](http://www.txforestservice.tamu.edu).

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

**Business Meeting:** Called to order by Dave Schwartz, who announced that Dell Hood, VP and chair of the nominating committee would present a slate of officers for 2003 at the October meeting. The election will take place at the November meeting (date to be determined).

It was decided that the December meeting will be a holiday party with the Master Gardner Association on December 19th.

Bert Cobb reported that he and Gaye had attended The Wildfire Prevention Program training and were available as speakers to help homeowners learn about how to protect their homes.

Dell Hood presented information about the Land Management Educational Series that is currently being offered by Rachel Bauer and the Hays County Cooperative Extension Office.

Volunteer opportunities are available at the new San Marcos River elephant ear eradication program. Contact Rachel or the San Marcos River Group for more information.

Joe Piazza announced that the 2002 training class will have their graduation on Nov. 12th at Lookout Mountain. Thirty three of the 40 have missed three or less classes this year. Joe also called for volunteers at the Texas Expo in Austin on October 5 & 6.

Dell Hood mentioned the native plant sale at the Wildflower Center Oct. 4-6 and noted that the MN state convention on Oct. 25-27 has on-line registration available.

Roy Petersen noted the fire ant problem and advised members to pick up the brochures available.

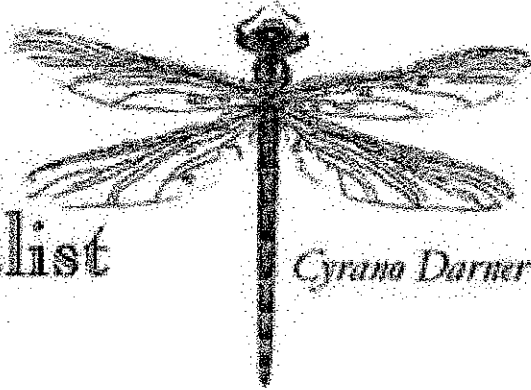


Eric Beckers provided many brochures regarding oak wilt and suggested that the Nature Conservancy web site had information regarding how to control or eradicate invasive species (<http://nature.org/invasives/>).

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

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Naturalist



## Hays County Master Naturalists

October 24, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Ann Allen, Richard Barnett, Alleen Barnett (guest), Bert Cobb, Shirley Danforth, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Alice Johnson, Deb Lewis, Randy Moss, Joe Piazza, Buck Scheib, Dave Schwartz, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, and Betty Watkins.

The meeting took place at the Extension Office.

**Continuing Education:** Speaker: John Smith, Operations Manager, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority

Dell Hood introduced Mr. Smith, who presented an overview of the GBRA activities. The GBRA covers a ten county area and employs about 160 employees. Almost all of its income is generated by the various businesses of water and waste water treatment, water quality testing and the hydroelectric plants.

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

**Business Meeting:** Called to order by Dave Schwartz.

Dell Hood gave a report of the nominating committee. Alice Johnson will be the nominee for Treasurer and Betty Watkins for Secretary. The positions of President and Vice-President have no nominees at this time. Approximately 30 members have eligibility for holding office, and Dell will continue his search.

Election of officers will take place at the November association meeting. The tentative date is November 13th. Winifred Simon will check with the extension office to be sure the meeting room is available that night.

The December meeting will be a joint pot luck dinner with the Master Gardeners at the extension office on December 19th.

Dave gave an update on the 501(c)3 process and stated that the application is almost ready to submit.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

Texas  
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Naturalist



*Cyrano Darnier*

## Hays County Master Naturalists

November 13, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendees included: Ann Allen, Bert Cobb, Gaye Cobb, Shirley Danforth, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Alice Johnson, Randy Moss, Joe Piazza, Dave Schwartz, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, and Betty Watkins.

The meeting took place at the Extension Office.

**Continuing Education:** Speakers: Bert and Gaye Cobb, Certified Master Naturalists  
Program: Firewise Landscaping

Dell Hood introduced the Cobbs, who presented a program developed by the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Master Gardeners which was designed this year to help teach Texans about protecting their homes from wildfires. The program was developed in response to a very destructive fire which occurred near Poolville (Parker and Wise counties) in 1966.

(Advanced Training credit 1 hour).

**Business Meeting:** Called to order by Dave Schwartz.

Dell Hood reported that the nominating committee had selected Alice Johnson as the nominee for Treasurer and Betty Watkins for Secretary. Shirley Danforth nominated Winifred Simon for the position of Vice-President and Winifred Simon nominated Dell Hood for the Presidency. Both nominations were seconded and approved. All four officers were elected by unanimous voice vote.

Joe Piazza reported that of the 40 who began the MN training in February, 12 had

completed all their requirements and received their state certification at last night's graduation ceremony. An additional 19 are very close to certification.

Joe announced that the first curriculum committee meeting for the 2003 training will take place on December 3rd at 5:30. Applications will be available from the Extension Office and will need to be received by mid-January. The first class will be February 11th, with two in February, one each month from March through October and two in November.

Joe also requested that all MN's turn in their advanced training and volunteer hours to Judy Telford so that they could receive the oak leaf pins provided by the state organization to all who met the requirements for 2002.

Dell Hood gave a report on the MN Annual Meeting at Mo-Ranch October 25-27. He noted that there are currently 18 chapters in Texas with 10 more in the process of forming. There is also work on a Jr. MN program going on. In addition, four other states are in the process of establishing Master Naturalist programs based on the Texas program.

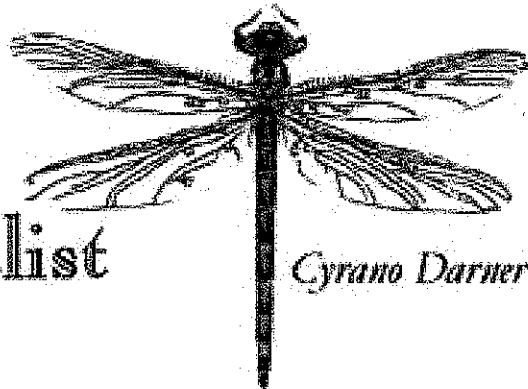
Winifred Simon repeated the call in the November newsletter for volunteers to work at the Greenhouse Interpretive Center.

The December meeting will be a joint pot luck dinner with the Master Gardeners at the extension office on December 19th.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary

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Master  
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## Hays County Master Naturalists

### December 19, 2002 Meeting Minutes

The meeting took place at the Extension Office and was a joint holiday potluck dinner with the Master Gardeners.

There was no official meeting, but the following Master Naturalists completed the requirements for certification for 2002 and were awarded the state association oak pin.

Richard Barnett, Delbert Bassett, Claudette Harrell, Karen Hayward, Dell Hood, Gerin Hood, Alice Johnson, Kathleen Johnson, Cindy Krudop, Walter Krudop, Jimi Lovejoy, Wendy Lovejoy, Randy Moss, Debbie Peel, Joe Piazza, Winifred Simon, Judy Telford, Betty Watkins, Frank Zimmerman, and Jan Zimmerman.

Those in attendance received their pins.

The dinner was well attended by an enthusiastic group and included an under \$5.00 gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted by  
Winifred Simon  
Secretary