

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING

**Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist
8 February 2011**

Members present:

Pamela Ball, Jamie Daily, Richard Fleming, Linda Gindler, Judit Green, Dwight Henderson, Ling Yin Liu, Lissa Martinez, Linda Mitchell, Cherry Pedrick, Jim Pedrick, Evelyn Penrod, Nancy Phillips, David Reichert , Liz Robbins, Jody Ruhl, Wendy Thornton, Ron Tullius, Bill Woller, Pam Yarnold, Roy Yarnold

The meeting was called to order by Liz Robbins at 5:15

November minutes are pending from outgoing Secretary, Jamie Daily. December and January minutes were approved and will be sent to David Reichert to be included in newsletter/website.

Treasurer's Report – Jamie Daily

Jamie reported that the CD balance is \$10,463.44 and will be automatically renewed on 4/16/11 unless otherwise stipulated. She stated that she needs to check with Pete Cowger regarding the Bingo account at Frost Bank. The treasurer's report stands as read.

Unfinished Business:

- Liz thanked Linda Gindler for her efforts in preparing the Annual Report.
- Liz passed around a note of gratitude for the \$200 donation to the Cibolo Nature Center in memory of Dr Bill Ward.
- Bingo – No report; Liz will follow up on bingo outstanding items.

New Business

- Land Heritage Institute (LHI) – LHI has requested that two representatives from AAMN attend their meetings and keep us connected; Dwight Henderson and Susan Blaker have volunteered.
- Liability Insurance – Linda Gindler reported that she spoke with Michele Haggarty regarding liability insurance for Master Naturalists. Michele said we should ensure that members are covered by the agency for which we are working as Master Naturalists. She also said waivers of liability should be signed by all members.
- Updating Member Roster – Linda stated that Michele advised we keep accurate, up-to-date rosters and drop inactive members. Linda moved that a parameter of 3 years of not reporting hours should be used as an indication of inactivity. The motion carried. After further discussion it was decided that Roy, Wilt, and Ling would work on this further.

- Hours Reporting – Linda stated that the Annual Report should reflect real numbers for outreach purposes and avoid duplication of hours. It was decided that the Outreach Committee would maintain these hours.
- Judit Green mentioned that Master Naturalists were needed for the Wildfest taking place the first weekend, including Friday, in May. The San Antonio Parks Foundation contact is Theresa Keck.

Current Standing Committee and Advisors Reports

State Advisors – No report

State Representative – Ron Tullius

Ron reported that there are now 44 chapters of Master Naturalists in TX: 3 inactive and 41 active. We have been in existence for 13 years.

Media and Technology – David Reichert

David stated that the newsletter was sent out early this month and that an Alamo Area Natural History section has been added. He also stated that a proof reader was needed and Cherry Pedrick volunteered. After reviewing Google Analytics, he determined that there is not a lot of use of the website, which he believes is due to the information not changing, that dynamic content is needed. Another issue is non fill-in forms.

Upcoming events are now included on Facebook and within the next month will be included on Twitter. There was a PSA in the Express–News and Texas Public Radio regarding the upcoming training class.

Hospitality – Wendy Thornton

In Nancy’s absence Wendy stated that work on the May social event is progressing and that SAPAR is requesting that a police officer be hired to work the event. Wendy also stated that there is an announcement in the newsletter regarding the upcoming spring class’ first meeting and what is requested for this (bring a dish). Lissa stated that she would like a photo from the event.

Chapter Programs – Ron Tullius

In Jessica’s absence Ron reported that programs have been confirmed through April and that there will be no speaker in May but rather a report on the Urban Wildlife Conference. Work is progressing for June through November and getting speakers confirmed.

Membership /Awards– John Wolcott

In John’s absence Roy reported that there were 5 awards to hand out.

Outreach – Lissa Martinez

Lissa stated that she has completed the calendar through May and that she is trying to avoid including events that require advance meetings. AAMN will not be doing Earth Day on 4/9, which is the same day as Viva Botanica. Lissa requested that information/

suggestions about upcoming events be forwarded to her. Wendy stated that LHI is requesting MN at the NPSOT event and that we are waiting for the form from Jerry. Wendy stated that she will be attending representing Master Naturalists. Lissa thanked Media and Technology for their work on the PSA's.

Training – Pam Ball

Pam reported that 38 applications have been received and 41 were expected by 2/9. The review committee, Linda, Ron, Nancy B. will select 34 and waitlist 6. This will be done on Thursday, 2/8.

Activities – Pam Ball

Pam stated that she has one activity form.

Historian – Nancy Phillips

Nancy reported that she has acquired many old newsletters and is still in need of old Express-News AAAN ads.

Special Committee Reports

Reporting hours assistance – Roy Yarnold

Roy reported that there were no calls for assistance.

SEP-HCP – Susan Oualline

In Susan's absence, Liz stated that she is in receipt of an email from Susan pertaining to the SEP-HCP meetings that she will forward to board members upon request.

Alamo Forest Partnership – Lissa Martinez

Lissa stated that there will be ongoing spring tree planting and that she will be heading up planting in Olmos Basin Park.

Hummer House – Arless Lenz

Liz stated that she received an email from Arless regarding the upcoming trip to Hummer House on May 15. The cost is \$35 and includes a meal, tour, and banding demonstration. There are 15-20 people signed up for the trip.

SARA – Ron Tullius

The second field trip at SARA will be on May 12 and will be students from Lanier High School. There are three field trips remaining. Also, Ron reported that there are two public tours (10am and 11am) on the 3rd Saturday of the month, with the next one on 2/19. SARA will lead these through May and then hopes to hand this over to Master Naturalists to lead.

SABG – Ron Tullius

Ron reported that work continues on the Texas Native Trails area on Tuesdays, 9-12. Also, an Environmental Science class from the International School of the Americas will be coming to the Garden on 2/17 for a tour and to help remove some invasive plants. Ron stated that the deadline to submit answers for the newsletter contest on the TX

Piney Woods is 2/18 and there will be new contests covering the TX Hill Country and S. TX Plains Trails.

Sales – Pam Ball

T-shirts will be available during the upcoming classes on Thursday evenings, along with decals.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Approved

Barbara Harder, Secretary

Liz Robbins, President