

East Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2009, 6:45 p.m.
Cotton Belt Building, Tyler, TX

The East Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist met at the Cotton Belt Building in Tyler, TX on October 1, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. Eight members and guests, Ron and Janet Cook and Dr. John Placyk, were present. The meeting was called to order by Past President, Tappa Burt.

The September 3rd meeting minutes were presented by Ann Reynolds. A motion was made and the minutes were approved. The treasurer's report, presented by Cathy Eatherton, showed a balance of \$2,031.33. Expenditures for the month of September were \$20 for volunteer screenings and \$20 for speaker fees. A motion was made and the treasurer's report approved.

Herpetologist Dr. John Placyk, assistant professor of biology at the University of Texas at Tyler, presented the program entitled "Amphibians and Reptiles of East Texas."

Committee Reports:

The Board met to discuss future recruitment of class members and voted to hold a class in January 2010. A tentative class schedule has been drawn up. Membership will be discussed at the next Chapter Activity Day (CAD) which is November 7th. All members are being asked to make a concentrated effort to bring new people to the program and are also encouraged to attend monthly Chapter meetings.

Tappa will chair the nominating committee for 2010 officers. Richard LeTourneau, Chapter President, will appoint two other members to serve on this committee.

Announcements:

The November 7th CAD will have advanced training on completion of volunteer forms. Mary Jo Madden will explain the Chapter database and Bobby Eatherton will explain the Chapter website. A goal is to have additional members cross-trained in these two areas. Volunteer activity that day will include clearing the trails and the wildscape areas at the Tyler Nature Center.

Irene Hamel announced the Board has decided to institute a "Golden Duck Award" to be bestowed on a member at the annual Christmas Party on December 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the Tyler Nature Center. Details will follow in the newsletter.

Tappa stated that two classes, plant taxonomy and forest ecology, were held during the week and both were good sessions. On October 13th a class in ornithology will be presented by Jeff Kopachena, of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

There being no further business or announcements, Tappa adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Reynolds, Secretary, ETCTMN