

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
October 19, 2011

Present: Anne Cassidy, Steve Clyburn, Vern Crawford, Koy Coffey, Reidun Hilleman, Susan Longacre, Bob McKinley, Phyllis Muska, Lisa Williams

Absent: Cathy Downs, John Huecksteadt

Also Present: Tom Hynes

President Phyllis Muska called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for September Meeting: Susan Longacre made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Board Meeting. Vern Crawford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report had been sent to all board members prior to the meeting. Cathy Downs, the Treasurer, could not attend the meeting. Susan Longacre made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as received. Reidun Hilleman seconded and the motion was carried.

Nominating Committee: In John Huecksteadt's place, Phyllis Muska gave a report on the slate of officers and directors. Those nominated for officers' positions are: President, Priscilla Stanley; Vice President, Tom Hynes; Treasurer, Floyd Trefny; Secretary, Anne Cassidy. Reidun Hilleman will continue as Volunteer Project Coordinator. Steve Clyburn will continue as AT Director. After the election of officers, the incoming president will formally invite those who have agreed to assume director's positions to join the board.

Chapter Advisors: Michelle Haggerty from TPWD has expressed interest in being our chapter advisor. Phyllis and Michelle will discuss further after the state meeting.

'Donate' button on website: Beta testing of the "first generation" donation page on our website is complete and the page is ready for friends of the chapter to use. Webmaster, Dean Schmelling, has been working with Cathy Downs and Phyllis Muska to get the PayPal link up and running; Kristie Denbow and Phyllis Muska have composed artwork for the page; and Susan Longacre has been reviewer and tester.

An article about donations will be in the November Newsletter and an email will be sent to the membership advising them of the existence of the opportunity to make monetary donations to the chapter. We are interested in getting this information to the membership before any year-end donation decisions are finalized.

Susan passed around an example of the output (to acknowledge donations) both for cash and for credit card donations. Reidun Hilleman, Vern Crawford and Anne Cassidy will also test this donation mechanism this week using a credit card.

Annual Meeting: There are 30 Hill Country chapter members registered for the meeting. Six of our members will be giving presentations: Koy Coffey, Kip Kiphart, Cathy Downs and Gracie Waggener, Floyd Trefny, and Stephanie Perry. During the meeting there will be recognition of milestone hours.

Susan Longacre had some glossy prints made of our newsletter to take to the annual meeting. The best chapter newsletter will be voted upon. Only one edition of our newsletter will be presented for voting.

Holiday Party: The Holiday party will be held December 10 at Cibolo Nature Center, 11:30 – 1:30. Members and their guests can either bring a potluck dish, or pay \$8.00 per person. There will be piano music in the background. Catherine, the pianist, will be given a gift.

The date of the party will be announced at the next chapter meeting. RSVPs will be taken at the November chapter meeting.

Our 'Friend of the Chapter', Steve Nelle, will be presented at the party. Mr. Nelle will receive a gift certificate from Bass Pro Shop.

Directors' and Officers' Reports:

Steve Clyburn reported that there have been a lot of AT numbers assigned!

Bob McKinley stated that speakers have been lined up through January. He will meet with Tom Hynes to transition duties and discuss contacts for 2012 speakers.

Phyllis Muska mentioned that December 14 will be the transition board meeting.

Susan Longacre reported that she has sent communications to the newspapers, TPR and the "county voices" for October.

Reidun Hilleman reported that some new projects will be added to the volunteer projects list: There is a new trail project which is a joint project with RNC and the city of Kerrville; each county's NPSOT board work as well as work on other related boards; a new CC project, "Journey North and South", from Kip Kiphart will be a resource for teachers. It will track different events such as the hummingbird counts, Monarch migrations, etc. Volunteer firefighting for wildfires will be added. Tim Lewis will be the project coordinator.

Lisa Williams has ordered the badges (with pins) for the new class graduates. Copies of the book "Sand County Almanac" will be given to the class at commencement. Lisa will check with David Langford about getting more copies.

There will be 29 individuals finishing the class. Two have dropped out.

The Herff Farm field trip will be October 29. This trip is limited to 45 people. Meet at Cibolo Nature Center at 8:45 AM to carpool to the farm.

Three people have expressed an interest in being the new class representative to the board: Michelle Crawford, Tim Lewis, and Sally Garrett. This will be determined by vote among the class.

Vern Crawford mentioned that the Kerrville Kiwanis Club would like to have speakers from the Hill Country Master Naturalists for their noon meeting.

Koy Coffer reported that people are already asking about the 2012 class. There was an attendee at the class this morning from Temple making up a missed class. Coy feels that our reputation and visibility have increased.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

The next meeting will be **Monday, November 14 at 1:30 PM at RNC Nature Lab.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary