

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter  
Board Meeting  
July 22, 2009**

**Present:** Julie Clay, Steve Dodge, Jim Gardner, John Huecksteadt, Bob McKinley, Martha Miesch, Phyllis Muska, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley

**Absent:** Will Lummis, Gracie Waggener

President John Huecksteadt called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

**1. Acceptance of Minutes for the June Meeting:**

The Board reviewed the Minutes for approval. A motion to accept was made by Julie Clay, and seconded by Jim Gardner. The motion carried.

**2. Treasurer's Report:**

Martha Miesch presented the Treasurer's Report for June. A motion to approve was made by Jim Stanley, and seconded by Steve Dodge. The motion carried.

**3. Status of Chapter 501(c)(3) Application:**

John Huecksteadt reported that he had successfully completed the most difficult step in becoming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by completing the filing with the State of Texas to become a corporation.

The next step is filing for Exemption from Sales Tax. The fee will be \$300 if we determine that our average gross income over the last four years was less than \$10,000. Treasurer Martha Miesch will review our Treasurer's Reports to make this determination. We must also report grants given and received.

**4. Board Member Duties Description Articles for TMN Newsletter:**

John Huecksteadt noted that our Newsletter Editor Kristie Denbow had proposed a schedule for each Board member to write about their activities. Board members agreed this was a good idea to provide greater understanding of our Board functions to our membership.

**5. Gillespie County Fair Booth on August 21, 22 and 23:**

John Huecksteadt reported that unlike in previous years, our chapter would be unable to share a booth with NPSOT – Fredericksburg Chapter due to their larger exhibits this year. He indicated that we could have a free, unattended booth in the exposition area. We could also have a member at the booth if we so chose. In case there is a booth fee this year, the Board authorized any fee under \$100. An effort will be made to have a series of members at our booth to help the public learn more about the TMN program.

**6. Matching Funds Donation to Riverside Nature Center (RNC):**

Martha Miesch suggested that our chapter make a donation to RNC since currently an anonymous donor will match contributions. Martha subsequently learned that only individual donations would be matched. Martha explained that she made this request because RNC has been unable to obtain the usual contributions for its annual S.E.E.D. fundraiser from its corporate donors due to the recession.

Steve Dodge moved to place an item in the newsletter letting our members know that any individual donations that they might wish to make to RNC during this limited period will be matched by an anonymous donor. Jim Stanley seconded and the motion carried.

The Board also wants a notice in our newsletter indicating that it will consider written proposals from members for chapter volunteer projects needing funding.

**7. Update on our June 27 Chapter Meeting:**

Vice-President Jim Gardner reported that he had invited folks from the TPWD District Office, Heart of the Hills Inland Fishery Research Station, Kerr Wildlife Management Area, the Texas AgriLife Extension office, Riverside Nature Center, Fredericksburg Nature Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas – Kerrville and Fredericksburg Chapters to attend our June 27<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting featuring Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, discussing progress in the Texas legislature in protecting natural resources. This meeting will be held in the UGRA Auditorium to accommodate the anticipated higher-than-usual number of attendees.

Communications Director Phyllis Muska will send an e-mail to our members reminding them of the change in location for this meeting. The meeting announcement has appeared in the Fredericksburg and Harper newspapers, but not in the Kerrville Daily Times (KDT). Phyllis will re-send the announcement to the KDT hoping to have it in the Saturday newspaper.

**8. Introduction of Our 2009 Trainees to the Chapter:**

Membership Director Julie Clay reported that the names of our new Trainees would appear in our August newsletter. The Trainees will be introduced to our members at our August chapter meeting on August 24 which will be a reception for our Trainees with introductions by their mentors. There will be no educational speaker at this meeting and the public will not be invited.

**9. Newsletter Distribution to the Public in Our Four County Area:**

Communications Director Phyllis Muska reported that Karen Millikan is distributing TMN newsletters in Kerr County. Sharon Rodriguez is distributing newsletters in Gillespie County and Kristie Denbow is handling Kendall County. Phyllis is seeking a member to distribute our newsletters in Bandera County. This dedication to sharing information about TMN activities with the public probably contributed to our exceptionally high number of applicants for our Class of 2009.

**10. Bats and Bridges Update:**

Volunteer Projects Director Priscilla Stanley indicated that she had reported to the TPWD Coordinator for this new statewide project that our Chapter had 19 volunteers willing to determine whether bats were roosting under specific bridges and if so, estimate their numbers. More information on this new project will be available in the Fall.

**11. Class Training Preparations:**

Class Training Director Bob McKinley reported that all class preparations are on schedule. A field trip to Love Creek Preserve on September 26 will be led by Bill Carr and Dan Snodgrass from The Nature Conservancy. A planning trip was made to Love Creek this morning with The Nature Conservancy personnel.

The next Class Planning Committee meeting will be August 5<sup>th</sup> and will include the mentors. Bob expressed appreciation to Julie Clay for attending their meetings to coordinate Membership functions with Class Training.

**12. 2009 Class Applications Update:**

Membership Director Julie Clay reported that she had recruited most of the mentors that would be needed for our Class of 2009. As in previous years, mentors in each county will hold a meeting to welcome the Trainees in their county to our chapter, introduce the Trainees in each county to each other, give them their curriculum notebooks and answer their questions. Mentors for Kerr County are Betty Gardner and Priscilla Stanley; for Bandera, Leanne Beauxbeannes; for Gillespie, Ward Miller; and for Kendall, Cathy Downs.

We received 42 applications for a class size of 35 as determined by space constraints in our training room and our desire for interactive training with our excellent instructors. The Board reviewed the applications, discussed them extensively and selected 35 applicants to become our Class of 2009 based on our best judgment from their answers to the application questions that these folks were most likely to complete the training program and then share their knowledge by volunteering in their communities.

The Board thanked Julie for her very successful efforts in recruiting our Class of 2009.

The meeting was adjourned to 3:30pm.

**The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2009, at 1:30 pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab.** All Hill Country Chapter members are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Stanley  
Acting Secretary for  
Gracie Waggener  
Secretary

7/26/09