

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER  
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 9, 2017

**MINUTES**

*[With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the meeting to order.]*

*The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom. The President and the Secretary were present. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected.*

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**REPORTS (Officers, Advisors, Standing Committees)**

**Judit Green, TPWD Chapter Advisor**, reminded the Board that the City of San Antonio, through the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, makes efforts to encourage the public to use native plants; she observed that the general public supports pollinators and wildlife; also, the Texas Children in Nature program, the purpose of which is to connect families with Nature, will host a conference (November 7-8) sponsored by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

**Stan Drezek, State Representative**, reported as follows:

- no comments regarding the COH revisions have been made by the general membership
- the TMN license plate effort has reached its monetary goal
- as of the end of April (National Volunteer Awareness Week) 400,000 volunteer service hours have been provided; 3 million total hours of service; 11,000 trainees have graduated
- the TMN state office reminds master naturalists that they may comment on political affairs as private citizens, but NOT in the name of Master Naturalist
- House Bill 78 fixes the technical problem that prevented \$100 million from being dedicated to Texas parks
- the TMN annual meeting and advanced training will be held in Corpus Christi, October 20-22
- the State Parks Ambassador Program deadline for submission of a training application is imminent. The purpose of the program is to encourage young people to use social media to engage others in the same age group

**Keeley Porter, Historian and Archivist**, reported that the TMN state office is checking on local chapters regarding the 20th anniversary of the state TMN program. Special equipment (I-pad video kit) used to record personal reminiscences from Master Naturalists and from partner organizations must be shared among local chapters.

**Camille Gong, Hospitality Director**, thanked members for providing ice chests for use at training class graduation. She stated that people really enjoyed the event.

**Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Director**, reported that 40 trainees in Class #40 graduated--nine with certification and three with recertification.

**REPORTS (Chapter Liaisons)**

**Lissa Martinez, ACORN liaison**, stated that all scheduled field trips have been completed; all money is being spent.

**Donald Ewers, National Park Service and San Antonio River Authority liaison**, extended thanks to the San Antonio River Authority for their help with the graduation ceremony and the final field trip for training class 40.

**George Ozuna, liaison to Medina River Natural Area**, (see Attachment)

**Drake White, liaison to Phil Hardberger Park**, reported that the Grand Opening of the Butterfly Learning Center went well; also, the ACORN student tours were successful.

#### **REPORTS (ad hoc Committees)**

**Keeley Porter, ad hoc Anniversary Committee Chairperson**, reported the following:

- Joshua Springs, near Boerne, is the site for the 20th anniversary celebration
- the family event will be held on Sunday, November 5th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- the large pavilion, that holds 200 people, is available to rent (\$200) (bathrooms available)
- numerous activities are planned: nature walks, wildlife viewing, wading and fishing
- the savory portion of the lunch meal will be catered; members may bring desserts
- members should bring their own drinks, including alcoholic beverage (NO glass allowed)
- dogs on a leash are welcome
- a slide show will be shown
- invitations will be extended to special guests, including chapter partners, presenters and organizers, as well as living members of the chapter's earliest training classes
- announcements of the event will be placed in the chapter newsletter and on the chapter website; special e-mail blurbs will be sent as deemed appropriate
- commemorative t-shirts may be available for purchase

Additional details and arrangements will be provided at the next Board of Directors meeting for final approval by the Board.

#### **MINUTES & TREASURER'S REPORTS**

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The vote to approve revisions to the Chapter Operating Handbook will be held at the General Membership Meeting later in the evening.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Evelyn Penrod reported that the property housing the Wildscape Garden has been sold; lawyers are doing the paperwork. No more plants may be removed from the property; Evelyn will seek permission to remove the large, wood sign that belongs to the Alamo Area Chapter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

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Ron Tullius, Secretary

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Martha Cray, President

**ATTACHMENT:** Report on Medina River Natural Area by liaison George Ozuna

