

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 13, 2018

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS & NEW CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE

	OFFICERS		Sam Womble	✓	Evelyn Penrod	✓	Joedy Yglesias
✓	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson	✓	Gary Poole		CLASS 42 OBSERVERS
	Donald Ewers		MEMBERS	✓	Keeley Porter		Spring 2018
✓	Jeanette Geiman	✓	Shelly Abbott	✓	Liz Robbins		Spring 2018
✓	Stan Drezek	✓	Pam Ball	✓	Nancy Thoss		CLASS 43 OBSERVERS
	ADVISORS	✓	Michael Britt (class 41)	✓	Karen Stevenson		Fall 2018
	Judit Green	✓	Camille Gong	✓	Tyler Sanderson (class 40)		Fall 2018

Note: **Quorum=10:** there are 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors. New Class 42’s observers will be named with the start of the class in the Spring and New Class 43 in the Fall.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

MINUTES There being no objections the emailed corrected Minutes for last month’s meeting stand as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT There being no objections the 2018 February Treasurer reports stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Cray, President asked **Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Director**, to comment on the membership survey. Karen reported a great return rate of 108 respondents. The results are being reviewed and there will be follow-up with the Board.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, updated us on the Demonstration Garden. The plans have been submitted to COSA. At this time the local PHP staff has reviewed the plans as has the design team. The third and final review will be by the PHP Conservancy upon former mayor Hardberger’s return.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gary Poole, State Representative, stated TMN has not as yet posted an updated TMN Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) document to guide our AAMN COH revision. Stay tuned.

Evelyn Penrod, Media & Technology, discussed rotating Board meeting times. She explained this item came out of the Board Retreat and represented an effort to increase participation and attendance. Discussion clarified (1) the intent included times and locations, (2) included Liz’s point about having compelling AT topics, and (3) also included Karen’s reminder that the membership survey results equally split on daytime versus evening meeting times. Evelyn made a motion to have a team created to consider options including holding daytime or earlier meetings and different locations. The motion passed unanimously.

Keeley Porter, Historian, discussed another topic coming from discussions at the Board Retreat: establishing guidelines for acceptable volunteer travel time. A general discussion of the issue brought out both how hard it would be to monitor (no field in VMS) and that when events like beach clean-ups or TPWD initiatives in other regions were approved the travel time was going to be large but that did not detract from the value of the service. The sense of the meeting was not to impose additional restrictions and rely on honorable MNs. The idea was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Keeley Porter, Historian, also discussed an additional topic coming out of the Board Retreat: to make it mandatory for two of the eight AT hours to be AAMN General Meetings. She made a motion to this effect and Jeanette seconded. A spirited discussion followed. Liz made the point there are many competing AT opportunities. Pam brought up the need for posting the ATs earlier and getting out reminders. Lissa pointed out our under-advertising. Gary, capturing the possible feelings of many, preferred a carrot rather than a stick approach. Joedy graciously offered to broaden his role to include providing notice and marketing. All that being said, Keeley withdrew the motion and Jeanette the second.

Both Martha and the membership applauded Keeley's help in bringing these ideas forward for discussion.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, ADVISORS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND/OR STANDING COMMITTEES

Sam Womble, AgriLife Advisor, was not present.

Judit Green, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Jessica Alderson, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Liz Robbins, Past President, while present had no report.

Donald Ewers, Vice President, was not present as he was presenting elsewhere on Rain Gardens.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, had submitted the financial reports to the Board via email.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, had submitted the corrected minutes to the Board via email.

Gary Poole, State Representative, reported Carol Williams is the new editor of the TMN Newsletter, that TPWD had an iNaturalist training at the Houston Zoo this coming weekend, the Environmental Institute of Houston was presenting a 4-23 to 4-26 program on water quality (\$175), and the 2018 Texas Plant Conservation conference would be co-sponsored by BRIT and the Ft. Worth Botanical Center 9-19 to 9-21. Gary has information for interested MNs.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, reported that she will be prodding folks to get more of their ongoing VSH opportunities communicated and on the calendar.

Joedy Yglesias, Programs, explained how the Spicewood Ranch, which was his nomination for the Texas Land Steward award, and its owner Chris Harte actually received this award.

Shelly Abbott, Community Outreach said she was able to form a committee with six members identified through Karen Stevenson and Class 42. They will begin servicing some of the events coming up.

Keeley Porter, Historian, reminded us the end of the interviewing phase has come and TMN was working on the finishing the 20th anniversary project.

Camille Gong, Hospitality, thanked members bringing food to help make orientation night for Class 42 go well.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, first thanked Jeanette for her ongoing help getting the print copies of the newsletter printed and mailed, then said that the prototype MailChimp newsletter was looking good and hopes April's newsletter will be in this new electronic format, and finally asked, after sharing many examples, further nominations for the newsletter's name.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, reported we were up to 285 members with Class 42.

Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Committee, thanked all the many people that helped to support the training effort. We have had only two drop out and Class 42 has 52 in training. She introduced three Class 42 members to us who were at the Board Meeting: Maria Harrison, David Bordelone, and Sharon Curry. Finally, she explained the heavy reliance on technology and Google Groups in particular to create a shared Class 42 culture and information exchange.

Tyler Sanderson, New Class 40 Representative, had no report to make.

Michael Britt, New Class 41 Representative announced the arrival of Golden-cheeked Warblers to our area and invited us to participate in bird counts at Guadalupe River State Park.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, ACORN, said there were 175 students and 33 adults trained. Peter Joseph Hernandez created new training materials which the spring Project ACORN field trips would be using. There will be a practice walk for AT in early April for MNs wishing to be field guides.

Tom Brotherman, Alamo Forest Partnership explained the AFP had lost and then regained its fiduciary. There was deep discussion about the role of AFP and how it related to other organizations. The final decision was to keep going forward.

Mike Startzell, FoSANA, was not present.

Pam Ball, Headwaters at Incarnate Word explained how the upper field would become a Circle of Springs Garden identifying the 16 Texas springs. HIW is also restoring the property next to its acreage and it is currently being used for the Art of the Sacred Springs (38 artists in contemporary mixed media). Also in conjunction with the art exhibit is a film and lecture series. See the HIW website for details.

Donald Ewers, NPS/SARA was presenting elsewhere on Rain Gardens.

George Ozuna, MRNA was not present.

Drake White, PHP Conservancy, mentioned the Monday workdays were ongoing, that they are doing a fabulous job this year in keeping the grass under control, and the pathways are in the process of being mulched.

Texas Alliance, vacant.

Patsy Kuentz, LHI is scheduled to come and report only after each quarterly LHI Board meetings.

Tyler Sanderson (Joedy Yglesias back-up), Green Spaces Alliance mentioned April 3rd's Bexar County Landowner Conservation Easement program at which GSA will be present. He also reminded us that MRNA and GSA will be teaming up for a Tricentennial event at MRNA 3-14 from 10 am to noon.

Michelle Garza, Texas Waters Specialist Program, was not present.

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake, solicited volunteers to come on down to Mitchell Lake, a great venue for learning and volunteering, and passed out a brochure on the venue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS none.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. to allow time for socialization before the General Meeting.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

**ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

March 13, 2018

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, March 13, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

Longtime AAMN member and former AAMN president, Anton Hajek, announced our support of his “passing the hat” for the TMN Foundation at last month’s General Meeting amounted to \$114 including some generous \$20 bills. He passed the hat again tonight for the TMN Foundation.

Then, after some introductions, Nancy Thoss presided over the pin awards.

Martha then had Joedy Yglesias introduce our speaker, Geary Schindel, Chief Technical Officer at the Edwards Aquifer Authority. His topic was: “Joy of Dyeing- - What we need to know about groundwater in the Edwards Aquifer.

Geary gave a riveting talk characterized by humor and great practical illustrations and examples to illustrate complex concepts. Based on people’s attention, questions, remaining for a long session, and spirited applause his talk was exceptionally well-received.

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the AT presentation close to 8:30 pm.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President