ALAMO AREA CHAPTER  
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 12, 2019  

MINUTES  

BOARD MEMBERS & NEW CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICERS</th>
<th>Sam Womble</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Evelyn Penrod</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Martha Cray</td>
<td>Jessica Alderson</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Gary Poole</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>X Joedy Yglesias</td>
<td>Pam Ball</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Keeley Porter</td>
<td>CLASS 44 BOARD LIAISON</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Jeanette Geiman</td>
<td>Liz Robbins</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Danny Ingram</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Stan Drezek</td>
<td>vacant (Class 42)</td>
<td></td>
<td>vacant (Class 43)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADVISORS</td>
<td>X Chris Keen</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Nancy Thoss</td>
<td>CLASS 45 BOARD LIAISON</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Judit Green</td>
<td></td>
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<td>TBD Winter 2020</td>
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Note: Quorum=8: There are 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors; however, currently there are only 15 persons as Jeanette Geiman is both Treasurer and New Class Training Director, Joedy Yglesias is both Vice President and Programs, and Class 42 and 43 Board representatives are vacant.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

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MINUTES  The emailed corrected Minutes for October 2019 were approved with no additional corrections.

TREASURER’S REPORT  The reports for October 2019 were approved with no additional corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  

President, Martha Cray, presented news from the TMN Annual Meeting including mentioning 2020’s pin will be the American Bumblebee. See Attachment 1 for Jeanette Geiman’s full write-up of what Martha covered.

President, Martha Cray, reminded us of the 9 am December 14th Board Retreat at Friedrich Wilderness Park (Date has since been revised to 12-21) and the December 10th Holiday Gathering beginning 6 pm at the UEC in Phil Hardberger Park.

Treasurer, Jeanette Geiman, introduced the proposed 2020 budget touching on a few highlights including mentioning we included 10 $200 TMN conference stipends for 2020 and aggregated Outreach into fewer line items. There was little discussion. Liz Robbins moved acceptance, Joedy Yglesias seconded, and the Board unanimously adopted the budget. Jeanette also told us the $12 dues for 2020 are due 12/31 excluding Class 45 whose dues come from their class fee.

Secretary, Stan Drezek, announced the completion of the newest Talking Point on Soils and how, thanks to Jeanette Geiman, the Talking Points are correlated with and placed in the curriculum overview. In response to a question from Chris, Stan said he will ask Evelyn to put another notice regarding the Talking Point series in our newsletter early in the new year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  

President, Martha Cray, brought up having the Lasagna Dinner in January. Consensus is that we would have it and Theresa Needels will judge from how many volunteer to bring lasagna what might need to be ordered from the Olive Garden.

NEW BUSINESS none

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

Sam Womble, AgriLife Advisor, was not present.
Judit Green, TPWD Advisor, advised us she had another meeting to attend tonight.

Jessica Alderson, TPWD Advisor, advised us she had another meeting to attend tonight.

Liz Robbins, Past President, reminded us of tonight’s 7 pm election.

Joedy Yglesias, Vice-President, reported as chair of the Annual Financial Examination committee that the financial records appeared complete, thorough, and correct. He was very impressed and thanked Jeanette for her diligence. Some ideas came up for the Board Retreat to discuss: (1) a debit card for the Treasurer and (2) possibly another $10,000 put into a CD.

Gary Poole, State Representative, mentioned two upcoming Urban Stream functioning workshops. One is 11/14 in Waco and another 11/19 in Corpus Christi. See Gary for details.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, was not present.

Joedy Yglesias, Programs, announced the new superintendent of GCSNA would be our January speaker.

Chris Keen, Community Outreach, reported that while turnouts were low for the two Arbor Day events many contacts were made and people were really engaging with us. He thanked Martha and Jeanette for helping out. On another front, he indicated Class 45 will be involved in the creation of outreach “trunks”- allowing MNs to have packaged activities for outreach events. He ended with reminding us about RAWA, the passage of Proposition 5, and his own completion of his Ambassadorship with TPWD.

Keeley Porter, Historian, advocated organization email addresses with a standardized naming convention for key Board positions, e.g., AAMN President, AAMN Treasurer, AAMN Activities, etc.. This would facilitate control of and access to electronic files archived and shared in Dropbox, especially when members transition into and out of Board positions.

Theresa Needels, Hospitality, expressed thanks for HEB’s provision of trays for Orientation night, $150 in gift cards, and forthcoming trays for our Holiday Gathering.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, said another 13 plants were added to the Demonstration Garden and they are working out issues with the gate closure system. In response to a question about cold tolerance of natives she indicated she actually was more concerned with summer heat, but, so far, the plants have done quite well.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, asked that anyone thinking they are due a pin contact her. During Nancy’s report Keeley thanked Nancy on behalf of the chapter for all her work in getting those new Golden-cheeked Warbler pins out.

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training, said Class 45, 71 strong, was awesome. From her perspective it was the best start to a class yet. Each member has a mentor from the New Class Training Committee. She asked us to come to any sessions we wanted to and make our trainees feel they are part of a family.

New Class 42 Representative (vacant).

New Class 43 Representative (vacant)

Danny Ingram, Class 44 Board liaison, had no report.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, Alamo Area Children Organized to Replant Natives (ACORN), could not be in attendance but emailed:

“The Butterfly Learning Center hosted two days of field trips from Cody Elementary School. About 90 5th graders and their teachers visited the BLC and the Hatch House, and the teachers added a scavenger hunt to the program, so that we had three stations of activities for the students. That way, we limited the number of students in the hatch house or garden to 15, which proved manageable.

The field trips were November 6 and 7, by which time there were very few caterpillars or blooms to show the kids. The MNs who volunteered did a great job of improvising, and showing the students lots of plant structure and function, in line with the TEKS for 5th grade.”
Tom Brotherman, Alamo Forest Partnership (AFP), was not present.

Friends of the SA Natural Areas (FoSANA), vacant, no representative at this time.

Pam Ball, Headwaters at Incarnate Word (HIW), was not present.

Joedy Yglesias, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), yielded his time to Minna Paul of SARA. Minna mentioned the need for volunteers to help with Pecan Jubilee, SARA Field Trips, and a presentation next week at Five Palms ES. Field trips could involve shadowing or training first. She will provide us a list of 16 schools who started rain gardens and need help maintaining them. We can publicize that to our MNs. She also said on November 23 there would be a tree giveaway at Confluence Park.

Pat McGuire, National Park Service (NPS), was not present.

Medina River Natural Area (MRNA) vacant, no representative at this time.

Drake White, PHP Conservancy, said they had a very successful November Project ACORN event with Ed Cody ES. However, they learned October is a better time to schedule than November. This Saturday she said would be a 3rd Saturday program at Phil Hardberger Park on Permaculture.

Jessica Alderson/Judit Green, Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, had to attend another event tonight.

Patsy Kuentz, Land Heritage Institute (LHI), is scheduled to come and report only after quarterly LHI Board meetings.

Green Spaces Alliance (GSA), vacant, no representative at this time.

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

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (MLAC), vacant, no representative at this time.

Pete Hernandez, Native Plant Society of Texas - San Antonio Chapter (NPSOT-SA), announced NPSOT-SA was for the second year awarding AAMN $500 from their surplus as a partnering organization. Pete corrected this the next day to be an award of $250. New NPSOT-SA officers are Lee Marlowe, president; Fred Loxsom, VP; Pete Hernandez, Secretary; and Joan Miller, Treasurer.

Keeley Porter, Native Plant Society of Texas – Boerne Chapter, reported on the 14th Annual Maples for Boerne Program. The event was held 8-9 November in the big barn at the Agriculture Museum in Boerne. Over 100 Bigtooth Maples in 5-gallon pots were adopted - each tree came with planting and care instructions, a 10-ft wire cage, plus a bag of mulch. On December 5th, the NPSOT volunteers will be distributing 15-gallon Bigtooth Maple pots to businesses along Main St. and other organizations in Boerne. The Bigtooth Maple is valued for its drought tolerance and upright growth, making it ideal for street planting or rocky landscapes. They are virtually disease and pest resistant.

There will be no December presentation - the annual Holiday Party will be held instead and all Boerne Chapter members are welcome to attend to enjoy good company and delicious food.

COMMITTEE REPORTS There were no committee reports.

ATTACHMENTS #1 Summary of State Representative Meeting at 2020 TMN Conference

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:25.

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Stan Drezek, Secretary             Martha Cray, President
President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:45 pm at the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service Classroom 208.

Nancy Thoss presented the pin awards including announcing one 500-hour and one 1,000-hour pin.

We then took a 5-minute recess until exactly 7:00 pm for the election.

Immediate Past President and Chair of the Officer Nomination Committee, Liz Robbins, conducted the election of officers. Each nomination in order of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President was announced individually. She asked for other candidates from the floor. In each case there being none, Liz asked for approval by acclamation, and that happening, Wanda Huffins will become Secretary on January 1, 2020. Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, Joedy Yglesias, Vice-President, and Martha Cray President will all begin another term in their current office for 2020.

Finally, Joedy Yglesias introduced our speaker, Angela McDermott, Garden Engagement Coordinator for the San Antonio Food Bank. She spoke on the Food Bank’s community gardens, Aquaponics systems, and volunteer opportunities. The membership was most impressed with the breadth and depth of the Food Bank programming. She answered many questions from our MNs on a broad array of topics.

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Stan Drezek, Secretary             Martha Cray, President
ATTACHMENT #1: Summary of State Representative Meeting at 2020 TMN Conference

By Jeanette Geiman.

**Endowment After** two very successful galas in 2018 and 2019 and member and chapter donations, the endowment is currently at close to $80,000.

The state office would like to find donors for the endowment fund who would make large donations as an investment. There is a TAMU Foundation person available to assist individuals who would like to establish an investment to the endowment.

There is interest in establishing a chapter role for “Endowment Ambassador” whose duties would be chapter focal point for receiving and communicating updates about the endowment and keeping the chapters focused on endowment donations. We asked for assistance (by way of written articles for the newsletter) to keep the chapter focused. We were promised some will be provided in the coming months.

The endowment needs to “strategically” move forward” to enable the TMN program to add more staff and for funds from chapter project grants. If RAWA were to pass, we could potentially fill these two needs. We have the same two staff positions today to support 48 chapters that were in place when there was only 4 chapters.

Comment: The endowment focus seems to be much more on going after the big donations rather than small donations we could handle from the chapter, so I don’t think Alamo Area Chapter needs to take any action at this time regarding a member-focused small donation effort (such as adding $5 to dues payments).

**License Plates**

Still in process. Mostly mired in the bureaucracy of state processes.

For other TWD license plates, it has taken an average of 3.5 years from inception to plate issue and we are at 2 years... So, we can reasonably expect it will be at least another year before the plate is released.

**T-Shirts**

CC Creations is a College Station-based company that the state office is using for conference t-shirts. They made the “What Kind of Naturalist” shirts recently offered. Those t-shirts were so popular that they are being offered again for a limited time.

Chapters can also use CC Creations to order chapter customized t-shirts. Since we have our own local supplier, it is unlikely we will change.

**Curriculum Evaluation**

There was discussion about the initial training “survey” that was sent this summer – how it will be used by the state office – and how it can be helpful to the chapter. The chapter results are available to the training director and I will be requesting those for our chapter to see if there is any meaningful information we can use to improve our curriculum. Overall/state wide: The questions about ecosystems scored highest and ichthyology scored lowest.

**Spring webinar for State Reps**

The state office is hopeful that they will be able to schedule one for 2020. They were not able to do it in 2019.

**Pins**

The recertification pins arrived the morning we met – much to everyone’s relief.

The pins for 2020 are also in, so there will not be a delay in getting our 2020 pins.