**CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 21, 2015**

**ATTENDING:**  29 members - Pat and ViAnn Sawyer, Sue Simmons, Gail Masters, Linda

Richtsmeier, Ted and Stella Barrow, Charles Gillis, Carl and Diane Turner, Vicki and David

Gilliland, Betty Morgan, Becky Gullette, Kristi Thomas, Vanessa Neace, Deanne and Jerry

Jordan, Susan and Steve Sedberry, Tom Walker, Sandra Hooker, Kay Watson, Karen Williams,

Kay Watson, Jill Wright, Pamela,Andrews, Barbara Judkins, Pam Watts, and guests Ellen Day,

Gary Pesowski, and Doug Weir.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm by President Stella Barrow.

**JAY WEBB, FRIENDS OF REFUGE** – Jay was introduced and spoke about the interconnedness

of both groups and issued an invitation for those interested to attend meetings and/or consider

joining the board. Discussion ensued about the wonderful opportunities in our area to educate

and the fact that a common bond between the groups would be beneficial for both.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**: Barbara motioned, Kay seconded motion to approve the minutes as issued.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Balance $6,067.85, of which $1,823.85 is designated for Regatta.

Karen went over the report and outlays for Regatta, resulting in preliminary profit of $958.67.

Linda motioned to accept the report; Sue seconded.

**GENERAL ITEMS**

**OLD BUSINESS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES**

**EAB TRAPS: (VO)** Vanessa reported that all traps were put up in record time and finished

before the rain moved in. Some traps may not have made it through the resulting storms; will be

checking and there will be an update May or June.

**REFUGE TRAIL MAINTENANCE: (VO)** Charles advised that the trails are still soggy; best to

wait until dry out.

**MARSHALL ELEMENTARY: (VO)** See Betty tonight regarding eighty second graders at Refuge

tomorrow, volunteers need to arrive at 8:00 a.m. Vanessa reported that Karnack Elementary had

asked to add on at last minute with fourteen students, but as this will be the largest group to date

the request was declined. Discussion ensued regarding need for back up locations in case of

inclement weather and maximum amount of groups to be accommodated.

**HISTORIC FREE DAY 5/3: (VO)** Barbara Judkins reported that the event is set for 12-4 pm

Sunday, and all sites that charge an admission will be free that day. Master Gardeners, Friends

of Caddo, an avocational archaeologist, forester, and others have been invited, offering crafts,

games, and hospitality area to help visitors learn. Barbara asked for volunteer(s) from group to

give a 15-20 minute presentation that day.

**PADDLEFISH FESTIVAL 5/20-22: (VO)** At Collins Academy; 5/20 will be elementary graders,

5/21 upper classes, and Friday 5/22 will be for visitors and public. Friday would be good day to

set up table with TMN brochures and info. This is a big exhibit and volunteer opportunity, chance

to help Collins Academy. Sue will look into display on Friday, more information to follow.

**KAYAK RAFFLE:** Stella brought up for discussion idea of selling raffle tickets for kayak between

now and Paddlefish Festival and giving away on 5/22. After much discussion was determined that

the members who want to would take raffle tickets to sell at $5 each and return at monthly

meeting 5/19.

**REGATTA WRAP-UP:** Stella reported that the event was great and offered thanks to all for team

work! Although less profit earned on bottom line, more visitors used Eventbrite and there were

seven walk-ups, and all despite the rainy conditions. Meeting to wrap up will be next week; email

to follow.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WORK DAY 5/16: (VO)** Next volunteer workday set for 5/16; watch for emails for details. Birds

in the cases need to be cleaned, per Vanessa. New cases coming from nature center in Tyler,

this work can be done in classroom under A/C, noted Vanessa. Betty and Vanessa discussed

that the birds could be used in display at Paddlefish Festival, along with owl. Would be good to

get them cleaned on 5/16 for use 5/20.

**RIO BRAZOS TMN CHAPTER VISIT:** Per Stella, more details to follow. They will be bringing

star-gazing party information, plans are to possibly engage group with a dinner. As for star-

gazing party, may be best to plan for fall.

**CLASS HOSTS THIS MONTH 5/1 AND 5/2: VOLUNTEER TIME AND ADVANCED**

**TRAINING –** Betty offered details of the two excellent presenters, accommodation arrangements,

and the fact that this would be AT. Stella will be planning meals based on return of registration

forms that were passed out; please return ASAP to her via email.

**THOUGHTS ON VOLUNTEERING:** Stella stressed that we need NOT forget that this is a

volunteer group, some members still work, only forty hours are required, but there is a huge

variety of opportunities that members can choose from, based on their interests and preferences.

Betty pointed out that there is a niche for everyone and goal is to help find based on interests.

Some members gravitate toward teaching and organizing (Becky’s idea, for instance, was

“resource room” to help foster those talents), and others may be interested in working outside.

**ADVANCED TRAINING, LINDA RICHTSMEIER, BLACK SWALLOWTAIL:** Linda delivered a

very interesting and informative presentation on this butterfly, along with handouts. ViAnn

volunteered to present on the Monarch butterfly next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** at 8:26 p.m., with 1.5 hrs. volunteer time and .50 hrs. advanced training, plus

travel.

**VO = Volunteer Opportunity**

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary