

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
August 1, 2017
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom 2 – Carbide Park
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:00 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Tim Long, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Jim Duron, Janet Mason, Patty Trimmingham, Andrea Stromeyer, Julie Massey, and Lynn Wright.

George discussed safety of the building and the fire evacuation route, and location of fire extinguishers and AED devices. He reminded us not to text and drive.

Old business

1. June Board Meeting Minutes
 - a. The minutes of the June 2017 board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn, seconded by Maureen. Motion was passed.
2. Project of the Year (Tim)
 - a. The mission of the Galveston Bay Injured Bird Response Team is to transport injured birds and wildlife from Bolivar and Galveston to the Wildlife Center.
 - i. They have a public face book page.
 - ii. Tim gets calls from the public, animal control, the humane society and others.
 - iii. The group consists of about 20 transporters, over half are Master Naturalists.
 - iv. They have transported over 250 birds since January 2017, 40 species.
 - b. Tim reported that the project of the year team had their first meeting and reviewed previous projects.
 - i. Team members: Tim (Lead), Sara Snell, Suzanne Becker, Julie Massey, Sandy Parker and Stennie Meadours.
 - ii. Maureen advised that pictures showing children seem to help in getting selected.
 - iii. The team will meet again in August.
3. 20th Anniversary Project update (Maureen)
 - a. Not much progress has been made.
 - b. The people who will be interviewed have been identified.
 - c. Activity will ramp up in mid-August.
4. Conference Sponsorship (George)
 - a. Will be given to our newest 10,000 hour volunteer – Odie Asscherick.
5. College Scholarships (Julie)
 - a. Julie has spoken with the scholarship recipient (Jacob Hale) who is going to A&M. Jacob will give Julie the information regarding where to send the check. Julie will set a date to get a picture with Jacob.

6. Guardian Award (Maureen)
 - a. Nov. 30th is the actual date the award will be handed out in Alabama to only the first place recipients.
 - b. No date yet on when the videographer will come to take pictures/interview us.
 - c. Only three will be interviewed (Maureen, Alan Wilde, and Stennie Meadours)
 - d. We will probably schedule a clean up so the whole chapter can participate.
7. Follow up items for George (George)
 - a. He will follow up with the Houston Audubon regarding habitat restoration on Bolivar. Doris Heard was mentioned as a contact.
 - b. He will follow up on the chimney swift towers. We have the man power.
 - c. He will send out an email reminder regarding the Photo contest.

New business

1. Grant for Estuaries (Maureen)
 - a. Application is due August 7th.
 - b. We can get up to \$3000 to be used for Natural Estuaries week (Sept 16-23rd).
 - c. Our proposal would be to host a beach cleanup of 2 locations in Galveston, focusing on helping the participants to understand where the trash “flows” and how it impacts Galveston Bay.
 - d. We will partner with other non-profit groups in the area.
 - e. Maureen has a first draft of the application; Andrea offered to help with the grant writing.
2. Galveston Island Tourism Council Award (George)
 - a. The Chapter was recognized by GITC as being Partner of The Year (mainly for our work with Feather Fest.
 - b. We received a nice recognition plaque.
 - c. This is the second time our chapter has received the award (last time was in 2011).
3. Guide Certification (George)
 - a. George will be going to a meeting tomorrow to learn more about the Guide Certification program.
 - b. This project is funded by the Galveston Convention Bureau.
 - c. The project consists of building a database of local information that can be obtained by tourist companies. Once trained, they will be able to speak knowledgeably about various topics.
 - d. We would be contributing our knowledge with items such as the top ten shells, turtles found in the gulf, local birds, etc.
 - e. There would be classes to train ‘ambassadors’.

Board reports

President (G. Kyame):

1. George went through a mid-summer update/status to see what we have accomplished. There have been many successes:
 - a) Dolphin Challenge

- b) Beach & Bay
 - c) Feather Fest (maybe held too early in the year)
 - d) Camp Wild
 - e) Hospitality (Penny Bessire has done an excellent job)
 - f) The Midden – Excellent articles
 - g) Our board committees
 - h) Speakers – at the meetings have been great
 - i) Emeritus program – 2017 class has offered to continue this
 - j) Texas Coastal brigade – hope to get camp wild counselors from this group
 - k) VMS tracking – Chucks pie chart showing where we spend our time has been helpful
2. George reviewed the “day away (retreat)” list to see if there are items we should lay away:
- a) Formalize the communication committee
 - b) History records
 - c) Project of the year
 - d) Leadership & Transition
 - e) Emeritus program
 - f) Non-traditional
 - g) VMS usage
 - h) Speakers Bureau
 - i) Education Outreach
 - j) Stewardship
 - k) Hospitality
 - l) Wetlands Restoration

Past President (M. Nolan-Wilde)

1. Maureen and Alan wrote a grant to obtain \$5000 to restore bird habitats on the new breakwater at Virginia Point.
2. TPWD awarded the grant to Scenic Galveston since they own the property.
3. The money is to be used for the restoring bird habitats.

Vice President/State Representative (T. Long):

1. Tim will put the slides together for the August meeting if George sends Tim the agenda.
2. October speaker will be Steven Curtis (TPWD) from San Marcos to speak on “Eel Mops”. He will give the same talk at the state conference.
3. Reminder the state conference is Oct 21 – registration will be opening soon.

Secretary (P. Trimmingham):

1. Nothing to report.

Treasurer (L. Wright):

1. July Treasurer’s report presented to board. Little activity.
2. Motion to approve made by Tim, second by Janet. Motion passed.
3. Discussion on speaker gift for the Wildlife Center. It was decided to give a \$50 speaker gift and then give a \$100 donation to the Wildlife Center.

Membership: (J. Duron):

1. 28,156 volunteer service hours YTD, over 400,000 since the chapter’s inception.
2. New class: All have completed the class. 19 have already certified, and 10 have re-certified.

3. YTD 179 members have reported hours. 220 Active/paid members.
4. YTD 20 new Certifications, 108 re-certifications.
5. Impact Data:
 - a. Events are up, but impact data is not.
 - b. Jim explained that the majority of us are not recording the impact data correctly. If, for instance, a weekend beach walk is given with 4 topics covered – there should be 4 entries because those are 4 separate ‘education’ activities.
 - c. Jim now has the ability to extract the impact data and dump it into an excel spreadsheet.
 - d. The Education Outreach spreadsheet was sent to all who requested it. If anyone else wants it, let Jim know.

Advanced Training (George for C. Snyder):

1. Noted that 75% of those who have reported hours have their 8 hours of AT.

Class representatives (J. Mason, A. Stromeyer):

1. Members of the 2017 class met recently to discuss the theme and centerpieces for the December meeting. They have a good idea of what it will be. Next meeting scheduled for late August.
2. Janet asked if there was a solicitation letter we could use when asking for donations. Alice Rogers was mentioned as a resource. Patty will check with Alice.
3. Last year there were 18 tables that sat 8. Julie reported that they have new tables which might be smaller. Julie will let Janet know next week if the size and number of tables have changed.
4. “Get Into Your Sanctuary Day” is August 12th at Flower Banks – they are looking for volunteers.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Funding was approved through 2017; small cuts for NOAA.
2. Sea Grant looks good for 2018.
3. They will start interviewing for the administrative assistant, many good applicants. Hope to have a person hired within 3 weeks.

Other business

Next board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5th, 2017, at Carbide, 2-4 pm.

Motion was made by Maureen and seconded by Janet, to adjourn at 4:12 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Trimmingham