

**Texas Master Naturalist  
Gideon Linsecum Chapter Meeting  
La Grange AgriLife  
July 15, 2017  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Cindy Hobbs at 9:05 AM. There were 30 members in attendance. Minutes of the May meeting were approved as distributed.

**President Cindy Hobbs:**

Cindy thanked Chris Morrison for chairing the May meeting.

Cindy commented that we are getting a lot of press. She referred to two recent articles, one in the "Fayette County Record" and the other in the "Texas Coop Power Magazine".

Dave Redden will be presenting a short training session on Dropbox after the training session today.

Cindy has received requests from the state TMN for chapter videos/projects for next year's Twentieth Anniversary. There was discussion about setting up a video room at the next meeting, and about the difficulties of making and editing a video. The Annual Meeting is October 20-22 in Corpus Christi, Texas. We are running the Agri-Life bookstore again this year. We will have two rooms with four beds for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Cindy and Chris Morrison are scheduled to work full time. Two more members are needed to work full time.

The last of the paperwork for the Bayer donation for Winedale has been signed, and we should receive the check next week.

**DIRECTOR/PROJECT REPORTS:**

**Vice President: Karen Woods**

Today's program will be "Soil for Water" by Thomas Schroeder.

September's program will be "Useful Wild Plants"

Cheryl Karr and Karen are setting up a Top Ten program for November.

Cindy Hobbs commented that James Schulenberg has volunteered to give a talk on "Grow Back" which contains fish and molasses and is used for prairie restoration.

Dave Redden commented that we need to repeat the program on Natives and Non-natives for all our new members. Greg Walker recommended Fayette Lake as a good location for that program.

**Past President Cindy Rodibaugh** Nominating Committee. The committee has talked to about 30 people, and we do have some potential candidates, but she still needs names for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Please see her if you are

interested in being on the ballot for next year's offices. She also told us about her trip to the Bamberger Ranch Preserve near Johnson City to see the bat cave.

**Secretary: Debbie Copeland-Luhn** explained the new sign up sheet designed by Leada Dietz. Please be sure to sign in.

**Treasurer Chris Morrison.** She is in Hawaii so President Cindy read her report. We had a beginning balance of \$15,930.02 with income of \$4,768.50 and expenditures of \$4,175.43 for an ending balance of \$16,523.09. There was a slight change to the Drop Box charge. Chris will be writing all the tax receipt letters when she returns from Hawaii. Karen Woods had a question concerning the Winedale expenses. The expenses have not exceeded the amount of \$2,500 authorized by the Chapter, as we have received the \$5,000 check from Bayer, we also received \$1,000 from The Briscoe Center and an addition \$4,000 in private donations.

**Outreach, Betsy Palkowsky.** Betsy showed the new Tri-fold display she designed and stated that there will be a total of 5 displays, one at each county AgriLife office along with a folder that contains a sign-up sheet and brochures to be used for Outreach. She also suggested that the tri-fold display should be taken to the 5 county scholarship banquets and possibly the new landowner classes. The 5 scholarship banquets are scheduled and listed on the website. Washington County is August 4<sup>th</sup>. Jim Wilson and Judy Deaton will attend and take the display. Colorado County is Aug 6<sup>th</sup> and Mary Ann Peach will attend. Austin County is Aug 19<sup>th</sup>. Tom Shaughnessy and Linda Esco will cover that banquet. Lee County is August 20<sup>th</sup> with Debra Namken and Cindy Rodibaugh. Fayette County is also August 20<sup>th</sup> with Donna Mueller and Cindy Hobbs attending. Tom Shaughnessy suggested having a booth at the county fairs. Lori Buffum suggested maybe we could be part of the TPWD booth at the various county fairs.

**Training. Jerry Gips.** Jeb Lapeyrolerie and Deb Hilton are the chairpersons and will have the first meeting in August. There are 4 people on the class waiting list at present.

**Membership. Leada Dietz.** Leada was not present so President Cindy Hobbs read her report. 86 members reported 3,676.65 volunteer hours and 437.33 hours of AT so far this year for a value of \$84,562.95. There was one Initial Certification: Linda Esco and 4 Recertifications: Cathleen Dunne, Donna Mueller, Terry Rooney and James Weatherly.

**Hospitality. Nita Tiemann.** She would like us to be thinking about plans for the Christmas party.

**Adopt-a-highway. Dave and Mary Ann Butler.** Next planned clean up is scheduled for Aug 2nd at 8:00 AM and rain date will be August 9.

**Winedale Pollinator Garden.** Betsy Palkowsky gave an update. The planting is complete around the visitor center. There will be a split rail fence added. The Gideon Lincecum monument will be moved later this summer and placed near the Shakespeare Theatre. A small native garden and pathway to the pond will be added. There was much discussion on the fall plantings.

**BISD. Carol Paulson.** There is nothing going on this summer, but we will be starting back up in August. She will let us know when the fall outdoor classrooms are scheduled. Betsy Palkowsky remarked on the wonderful “Thank You Dinner” that was given for the BISD volunteers. Lori Buffum stated that both the BISD Outdoor classrooms and the LANDS programs are 15 years old this year and that the BISD Outdoor classroom program is the only one in the state of Texas.

**Indian Creek. Judy Deaton.** They are working on keeping everything alive and watered in this heat. She mentioned that Earl and Patty Mills donated a load of mulch. Judy asked if there was any way we could help with moving the antique metal bridge. There was much discussion on moving this old bridge at Indian Creek to Washington on the Brazos. Dave Redden said it would be very expensive and that we need to get an estimate. Judy will look into it.

**Monument Hill. Karen Woods.** We finished posting all the signs in April and phase 2 is under development. She also mentioned that Texas Hero’s Day is the same day as our next Chapter meeting. Terry Rooney suggested that we set up an outreach booth. Lori Buffum would like all the details for the website.

**Stephen F. Austin State Park. Tom Shaughnessy.** Volunteers are needed in the near future to help with the picnic tables, wildscaping, revamping the trails and interpretive trail signage. There will also be a butterfly count on July 29<sup>th</sup>. This could count as volunteer hours under citizen science or as AT hours under NGO.

**Prairie Committee. Charlotte Von Rosenberg.** The hay made from Quebe prairie for Donna Mueller was beautiful, no weeds. Donna will have it tested for protein levels. Charlotte will let us know how it turns out. She also mentioned an article in the Brenham Banner titled “Protein Levels in Native Grass Droppings”.

The article states that pollution, overgrazing, and drought are causing the decline in the protein content and that overgrazing is much worse than previously thought.

There was much discussion about the benefits of the “seed bank”. Betsy Palkowsy and Greg Walker both stated that some of the seeds are at least four years old and are not being used. Cindy Rodibaugh suggested that each project have a list of plants they would like, and those would be grown in the greenhouse. It was also suggested that we schedule a field trip to the riparian area on Charlotte’s property.

**Attwater. Terry Rooney.** They are getting started. John Megura is our professional contact, and Butch Young is our volunteer contact at the refuge. So far they have had 1 good day and the second day was rained out. They have committed to working on the native beds around the visitor center once a month. Removal of invasives and restoration will start soon. Terry needs to know in advance how many volunteers will be there. Only Terry and Butch are allowed to drive vehicles into the actual refuge area. Lori Buffum asked if she knew the status of the Prairie Chickens? Right now stagnant due to the fire ants, the recent flooding and predatory disappearance of the birds.

**Drop Box. Dave Redden.** Dave will explain the usage to any one interested in using the Drop Box after the AT program.

President Cindy Hobbs mentioned that since Cheryl Karr will be moving to Rockport in the future, and taking her Scat and Track Display with her, she would like to have someone make a motion to authorize Cheryl to create a duplicate display for our Chapter use in our Outreach activities. Cheryl Karr provided an estimate of approximately \$325. Lori Buffum made a motion to give Cheryl the authority to create a duplicate Scat & Track Display not to exceed \$400. Nita Tiemann seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Since there was no other business President Cindy Hobbs adjourned the meeting at 10:15.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cheryl Karr and Debbie Copeland