

**TMN-Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting  
January 15, 2011  
Winedale Historical Center  
Winedale, Texas**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by President Cindy Rodibaugh. Those present were Lemae Higgs, Art Wammel, Toni Platt, John Platt, Dave Redden, Belinda Weatherly, Elisa Henderson, Janet Jarrell, Lefty Yarnold, LuAn Yarnold, Judy Deaton, Wes Davenport, Madeline Johnson, Carol Daniels, Jacquy Pearson, Jim Weatherly, Larry Hilgers, Cheryl Karr, Eunice Siegmund; Jonell Parker, Debbie Copeland, Jerry Frazier, Susan Solari, Carol Paulson, Mary Jones, Jan Redden, Carol Montgomery, and Linda Meuth.

Cindy Rodibaugh reported that the minutes of the December 11, 2010, gathering of the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists showed the election of the following new officers for 2011: President – Cindy Rodibaugh; Vice-President – Art Wammel; Treasurer – Tom Yates; and Secretary – Lemae Higgs. The minutes were approved as stated.

Executive Committee Reports

President Cindy Rodibaugh reported the new election of officers.

Vice-President Art Wammel had nothing to report.

Treasurer Tom Yates emailed his report to Cindy: The checking account balance 12/31/2010 was \$9970.14. Dues totally \$275 have been deposited leaving a total of \$10,245.14 There is another bank form awaiting signature which will be taken care of asap.

Committee Updates

Training 2011: Members of the training committee reported orientation for the new class will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Instructive classes start the Monday evening, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. The schedule will be on the web. There was a good bit of discussion over the fact that with so many chapters starting, the extension specialists are stretched pretty thin. Most instructors are drawn from Texas A&M staff. Many newcomers might not be aware of all an AgriLife Extension agent can do for them so they will be emphasizing these resources for the new MN trainees. Three new chapters are starting in this region and they may get first priority in terms of trainers. We may have to provide more of our own expertise. The training committee is trying not to repeat topics and to schedule

field trips to cover different things. Thanks was given to the committee for all their hard work in putting this together.

Recruiting: Judy Deaton reports this is going well. There has been coverage in the La Grange and Giddings papers. We should have a full class! A volunteer is requested as a communications or publicity person. We need someone to handle announcements of programs, training activities, etc. Website and publicity are currently good but a publicity chairman could help with a newsletter and other publicity needs. Current new class: 14 originally registered, 12 have paid and 2 backed out.

### Membership – Chapter Annual Report Submitted 1-15-11

Carol Daniels reported. Highlights are as follows:

- Transfers: Tammy Mierop completed; Larry McCarty has completed training from Gulf Coast; has been instructed on how to transfer.

Status of membership reporting of hours:

- 4174 volunteer hours by 49 members; 993 AT hours
- 17 initial certifications; 29 members recertified this year
- 8 members reached 250 hrs. 1 member reached 1000 hours
- Chapter hosted 28 events in which we reached 2586 people
- Status of membership changes: 105 on active member list!

Membership milestones, recognition:

Members recertified since December meeting: David Vogel; Larry Doherty; Donna Cooley; and Kathy Milenki, Cecil Rives, and Dottie Schoeneberg.

Members initially certified since December meeting: Art Wammel and Eunice Siegmund. Also Dottie Schoeneberg received her 250 hr. pin.

Background checks: no changes

Thanks for sending in your hours! There were more hours volunteered than last year, for a total of 14, 651 since start of chapter!

Advanced Training (AT) Dave Redden reported that notices for AT opportunities have been sent by Cindy. A new Webinar series every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday looks exciting. AT is a good way to get involved in many different activities. An all-day prescribed burning workshop in Brenham was discussed. It was brought up that the first time you take a course or go on a burn it is AT and after you've done it, further hours should be counted as volunteer service rather than AT. People interested in participating in prescribed

burning were encouraged to let Dave know and he will add their name to his email list to notify of scheduled burns. Dave encouraged people to join any (or all!) of the special interest organizations and then you get their notices! A list of other websites, organizations, etc. is already on our website which also lists other chapters and AT training opportunities which they offer.

When you are training, you accumulate AT hours, but, beyond 8 AT hours (the state requirement for certification), it is strictly for your benefit. It was suggested that members count excess AT hours as volunteer service hours instead, because, these hours translate into budget money for TX Parks and Wildlife so this is a better way to report hours.

Members are encouraged to list all activity hours and ask for help if confused whether Vol or AT should be reported. Our website has guidelines. Chapter Vol/AT hours are reported to the state quarterly. Begin keeping track of your activity now. The urgent thing is to report. You have 1 ½ years to certify.

In answer to questions Dave clarified that programs and volunteer projects promoted by the chapter are approved, but, new projects might require pre-approval before vol/at hours may be counted. Equally, if a program is advertised or sponsored by AgriLife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, or by the State TMN Coordinators, it is an approved activity and vol/at hours may be counted. Other chapter activities may qualify if the activity is of value in our ecosystem (can we apply in our 5 county region). Members are encouraged to take approved webinars IF they are related to conditions in our Eco region.

#### Volunteer Service Projects: Active projects

Native Prairie Restoration Randy Reddemann and Cecil Rives are co-chairs with this committee but neither were present. Dave Redden reported 35 acres of Cecil's property was recently planted as a result of a grant Cecil received for an "Upland Birding Project". Dave informed the group the equipment used to plant Cecil's property was made available by Larry Joe Doherty, who would like to sell it.

Winedale Trails and Brush Clearing is on hold.

Winedale Bluebird Nest box Trail Jim Weatherly cleaned out the boxes last fall. In answer to an inquiry others were told they can clean and soap boxes with Ivory Soap right now if they have not been cleaned yet.

Brenham Elementary School Bluebird Trail Dave Redden has moved boxes and put on predator guards; a camera has been installed in one of the boxes and software is

being installed on the teacher's computer so that soon, the children will be able to watch the bluebirds inside their box from the classroom.

McGregor House Herb Gardens Winedale Nothing to report this month.

Indian Creek Paths are open, useable, but in need maintenance. Carol Montgomery reports a picnic table and a couple of benches are available and we hope to add a small pavilion. Mulch is there, any member can put in independent volunteer hours as able; or, gather a group for a scheduled work day. The goal is to keep the trails clean, keep poison ivy and invaders at bay, and maintain an effective nature walk area for the local community.

Top Ten Program Carol Paulson is organizing the program on February 19<sup>th</sup>. After a long discussion, several members stepped forward with projects they will present, some new, and some updated. It looks like we will have three or four. Larry Hilgers' project at Lutherhill is also a possibility. Members were asked to please consider starting on a Top Ten to present in September.

Houston Toad Survey Begins on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at night at Winedale. Dave Redden says they will definitely be planning another survey this year, even though no Houston Toads have been found, surveys should be repeated several years to be statistically significant. "So we're going out to not hear toads!" Members are encouraged to consider this project as a unique way of learning about nighttime sounds, both reptile and birds. Several MN's shared how much they enjoyed learning to know what they were listening to. Listening is fun with variety each time you go out. There is a protocol to be followed, measurements of temperature, wind speed, humidity, etc. and how to report each, but you can sit in your car and listen. You don't have to get out.

Prescribed Burning Workshop on January 28<sup>th</sup> was announced. NRCS Dennis Newman was instrumental in getting a major milestone passed in Fayette County, permission for prescribed burns during a burn ban. The wording was such that Dave called the county attorney and the judge to clarify. A NRCS, Texas Parks & Wildlife approved burn plan is required, with trained people onsite, notification of appropriate county authorities including Judge Janecka, then we can burn. Two burns near Flatonia of 100 acres and 10-15 acres are being considered. Our group is also getting requests to help Bastrop County. We file all papers and notifications and currently have 7 or 8 properties awaiting burns. To be added to the mailing list, contact Dave Redden.

Host/Hostesses Lefty and LuAn Yarnold have added Janet Jarrell to their committee. The social on February 19<sup>th</sup> will be in dining hall at Winedale, beginning at 5:30. We will eat at 6pm, and then have Top Ten presentations. Meat is provided and members are requested to bring veggie/salad or dessert. Water, tea, coffee provided or BYOB. There was a long discussion on door prizes to encourage attendance. It was felt that we can

get enough of these donated and should not use chapter funds to purchase any at the time being. It was also suggested that door prizes be given out after dinner and again at the end of the evening so that those who cannot stay later can still participate in the fun. If you have MN related items you'd like to donate for door prizes, contact Lefty and LuAn to be sure they can use them. If any are left over at the end of the year, we may consider a silent auction of them as a fund raiser. It was also considered, if program committee's wanted to offer door prizes at their programs, they can do so. Might increase attendance.

Programs January program (today) is on Water Stewardship. Presenters: Wes Davenport, GLC member, and David Van Dresar, Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District General Manager.

March program: Judith Deaton is working on Invasive species program, which will be an all day workshop. March 26th is the tentative date planned. AT and volunteer hours are available to those who help set this up. Carol Daniels, Ed and Martha Koslosky and Judy attended the TMN Lost Pines Chapter invasive workshop in November. The plan is to learn to identify, photograph, locate (GPS), and record data online. Anybody interested in having our own invasive group?

#### New Queries and miscellaneous

An Email from David Vogel requested the chapter consider assisting the SWIFT sponsored community garden in Schulenburg. The garden is located on an old athletic field and they have asked for advice on creating a windbreak to protect the garden. This might be a potential volunteer project. Discussion had several ideas but most felt this was a Master Gardeners project and wouldn't easily fit our objectives.

Susan Solari reported anyone interested in registering nest sites with Cornell nest sites, they are now collecting species. If you need help, she can help you with this.

Cindy Rodibaugh brought the chapter's scrapbooks and Lutherhill tree ID booklet.

Another AT idea: the new landowner series by AgriLife. Mark Lincecum, a descendant of Gideon Lincecum will be attending the program today and has offered the chapter use of the historic Lincecum cabin for a future program.

Our next chapter meeting will be March 19, 2011. No program to follow meeting.

Meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lemae Higgs, Secretary