

TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS
GIDEON LINCECUM CHAPTER MEETING
July 16, 2016, LaGrange, TX
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Cindy Hobbs at 9:00 AM.

There were 24 members present.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as submitted.

President Cindy Hobbs

After the business meeting we will see a video filmed by TPWD with GLC members Wilda, and Albert Pecore. They were presented with the Lone Star Land Steward Award for their outstanding conservation work on Pecore farm. They will take questions after the video.

Old Business:

Winedale Weather Station

At our previous meeting in May, Scott Willey from Texas Agrilife gave a brief presentation on the Texas ET Weather Station Project to be installed at Winedale. Scott answered many questions, but said he would get back with us to answer some of the availability and maintenance concerns. The following are his answers as sent by email.

1. Will there be access to real time data and general access to data?

“No real time data availability, but yes to anyone having access. Due to the communication costs/minutes or plan it will only upload data on a daily basis. However, the website updates every morning, and users can go online to <http://TexasET.tamu.edu> to view the previous day’s weather and reference evapotranspiration. Users of the network can also sign up to receive daily to weekly weather summaries and irrigation recommendations via email.”

2. What are the maintenance expectations?

“There will be minimal physical maintenance on a regular basis. Mowing around the station to keep it clean, and on a monthly to every other month a physical inspection to make sure wind speed sensors are attached, rain gage is clear of nests/trash/debris, and the solar panel is clear of bird droppings or other foreign matter. Recalibration of sensors is required once a year to every three years and should be budgeted for \$300-\$400 annually (this is something the extension office will manage).”

3. How is the ET data calculated, and how much daily intervention is needed?

The following answer is from Charles Swanson, the Extension Specialist who works with the Texas ET Network.

“ TheTexas ET Network and Website provides daily weather and evapotranspiration (ET) data that can be used to produce irrigation watering recommendations. The network uses the Penman-Montieth Method which is recognized as the international standard for calculating reference evapotranspiration. This method requires daily climate data of temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation. More details about how the Penman Montieth Method calculates evapotranspiration can be found from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/X0490e06.htm#chapter%202%20%20%20fao%20pe nman%20montieth%20equation>). Since this method only requires local weather data, the Cambell Weather stations provide an accurate and reliable solution by recording the local climate so that the weather data can be downloaded once a day, processed through the Penman Montieth equation and posted to the TexasET Website.”

Scott Willey (sawilley@ag.tamu.edu) 979-968-5831

Scott has not asked the chapter for our donation yet, Cindy will call him next week and find out when he needs the money.

Winedale Proposal: Cathleen Dunn

Objectives:

1. Create and maintain a pollinator garden at the Winedale Visitor center.
2. Create a native grass and pollinator garden at the Gideon Lincecum Monument. Move the monument closer to the buildings and theatre.
3. Create and maintain a path to the monument.

Our progress to date includes a detailed plan for the pollinator garden at the visitor center. The budget plans are 40% complete, and selection of plant vendors and hardscape vendors has begun. Grants have been submitted to the State Water conservation Board. There have been multiple meetings with the Winedale Staff who are very enthusiastic. We have also met with Ginny Elverson Welch of The Friends of Winedale. There will be meetings with UT. Grants are expected to cover most of the expense. Cindy requested she be invited to the next meeting with Winedale. Carol Daniels added that the Winedale Project is now on the website as volunteer hours.

Washington on the Brazos: Karen Ginnard

The pollinator garden is in summer maintenance mode with 56 different kinds of plants. Half of the budget has been spent so far. Three workshops are scheduled in the fall: Snakes, Tortoises & Turtles, Bird Watching, we are going to advertise these heavily. We will eventually need help with removal of invasive plants.

Brenham Butterfly Garden: Carol Paulson Still on hold.

Google Groups:

Cindy Hobbs wants to thank Dave Redden for his help with google groups and the training lesson he gave her.

Festival Hill:

Cindy met with Henry Flowers on June 29. We have suspended our volunteer service there. However, he did not want us to remove our signs.

Forest Service:

Cindy Hobbs had Daniel Lewis from the Forest Service examine the trees on her property. He informed her that oak wilt was in the area and was a danger to her oaks. She also plans to use water and baking soda to rid her trees of ball moss. She advised that anyone can get the forest service to look at their property all you do is call them and set up an appointment. She also passed out a list of tree species specific to Blackland soils.

Training Manuals:

Cindy has one training manual left.

Karen Woods:

Karen referred to a project presented by Donna Mueller as a fund raiser at the last meeting to see if anyone was interested in chairing the project. Cindy Rodibaugh commented that we are volunteers, not a fund raising group. Chris Morrison agreed, and added that if we should take on such a project, it should be for a specific purpose, not general fundraising. We will table this for now and present later to a larger group.

New Business

President- Cindy Hobbs

Elections: Even though elections are not until 2017, please consider becoming part of the leadership of our chapter. As the time nears you may be approached about becoming a board member.

Cindy will be scheduling a board meeting for August.

We have had several inquiries about the 2017 class and one student, Charles Winkler, has already paid.

Newsletter: Please consider writing an article for the newsletter on your project or any other naturalist subject. Our newsletter will only be as good as the articles you write. Anyone can contribute.

Snake Safety Program: There will be a free snake program presented by Stephanie Damron of TPWD on July 19 at 6:00 PM at St. Paul's in Brenham.

Annual Meeting:

The TMN Annual Meeting will be October 21-23 in Montgomery, TX at LaTorretta Lake Resort and Spa.

Vice President: Karen Woods

The September program will be on the Emerald Ash Borer by Daniel Lewis.

The November program will be on bird banding.

Cindy Hobbs thanked Karen for running the chapter meeting in May.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Morrison

Balance May 21, 2016 \$21,075.25

Income

Curriculum Manuals	\$ 245.00	
Total income		\$245.00

Expenses		
Training Class	-	\$472.78
Ag Safety Day		196.19
Total Expenses		-\$668.97
Balance July, 2016		\$20,651.28

Membership: *Carol Daniels*

67 Chapter members have reported 3892 volunteer hours and 500 AT hours this year.

Initial Certifications: Cathleen Dunne, Betsy Palkowsky

Recertification's: Carol Daniels, Chris Morrison, Donna Mueller, Dave Redden, Tom Scanio, Nita Tiemann, James Weatherly, Lefty Yarnold and Luann Yarnold

500 Hours: Lefty Yarnold, Luan Yarnold

Carol reminds everyone to update their profile and to put in their birthdate.

Training class: Jerry Gips not in attendance, he sent a report. The first meeting for the committee will be August 8th at 1:30 in Fayetteville.

Newsletter and Website:

Thanks to Lori Buffum for a great job on both.

Flickr: *Betsy Pawkowsky*

Cindy would like Betsy to show the chapter how to use the Flickr account at the next meeting.

Scholarships: Donna Mueller, not in attendance, report was submitted and read by Cindy Hobbs.

The candidates are presently being reviewed by the county agents.

Presentations: August 12 th	Washington County
August 14 th	Fayette County
August 14 th	Colorado County
August 20 th	Austin, County
August 21	Lee County

Adopt a Highway: Dave and MaryAnn Butler not in attendance, report sent and read by Cindy Hobbs.

The next clean-up will be September 7, 2016 at 8:00 AM.

Vests, bags, and water will be provided.

19 members have participated so far this year.

Attwater National Wildlife Refuge: Butch Young was not in attendance. Cindy Hobbs read some information about the floods and devastation to hens, eggs, nests and chicks from the Attwater Newsletter. Assistance will be needed to feed the new chicks, repair pens and general clean up.

Indian Creek: Judy Deaton was not in attendance, a report was read.

Thanks to Judy Deaton, Dave Redden and everyone who helped get everything back in order after the flooding. It looks fantastic now.

Prairie Committee: Charlotte Von Rosenberg was not in attendance, Cindy Hobbs read her report. There will be prairie trips and seed collection scheduled in the fall.

Monument Hill: *Karen Woods*

Duncan will be installing the signs when he returns from vacation. Thanks to Greg Walker for plotting and mapping the plant locations. A map is now available.

The next chapter meeting will be September 17th at Winedale with Karen Woods chairing the meeting.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Immediately after the formal business meeting Albert and Wilda Pecore's small video on the Lone Star Land Steward Award they received was played and they entertained questions from the group.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Copeland.