

TMN – Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting

November 21, 2009

Winedale Historical Center

Winedale, TX

Minutes

Those in attendance are Monterey White, Ruth Mercier, Carol Montgomery, Jerry Frazier, Larry Hilgers, Belinda Weatherly, Carol Paulson, Elisa Henderson, Debbie Copeland Luhn, Gene Luhn, Cindy Rodibaugh, Amy Davis-Jones, Martha Koslosky, Ed Koslosky, Dave Redden, Mary Jones, Charlotte von Rosenberg, and Mary Evelyn Sorrell.

1. Call meeting to order – President Dave Redden called the meeting to order at 9:10am.
2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Monterey White, secretary, explained that there has been a correction emailed in by Janet Rangel on page 4 of the September 19th, minutes. This correction is the title of the former Czech Heritage Museum property. It is now called the City of LaGrange Strides For Nature Trail System. Ed Koslosky makes a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Dave Redden seconds the motion and the minutes are unanimously approved.

3. Executive and Operating Committee Reports

President Report – Dave Redden

- State meeting October 23-25. Dave Redden reports that the meeting is something everyone should try to attend. There was a 2-day presentation on rainwater harvesting, plus many other interesting topics.
- Nominating Committee Report for officer for 2010. Election to be at Dec 5th meeting. Committee chair Monterey White reports that the 2010 candidates will be Dave Redden, president, Randy Reddemann, vice-president, Larry Hilgers, treasurer, and Monterey White, secretary.

Treasurer's Report – Larry Hilgers explains that all records can be requested by members through email. He then goes over the following items.

- Dues receipt status
- Budget status
- Grant application status. Only \$1500 grant money has come in.

VP Report – Randy Reddemann. No report

4. **Committee Updates** (review organization, address any issues, clarify expectations, identify interfaces with other committees)

- Training – Mary Jones (Spring 2010)
 - Status of plans for next class. Classes are nearly finalized. Archeology has been added with an afternoon lecture at David Vogel's place. Still missing is a presentation on plants. Two extra field trips have been added.

- Opening day material – Jerry Frazier is not going to present an overview during the first class because there are now enough speakers. Dave Redden suggests that Jerry may still do his presentation later as an advanced training opportunity. Dave also states that there should be an agenda for the first class.
- Mary Jones reports that several of last year's class did not like the room at Winedale because it was difficult to hear the speakers. Winedale is charging \$50 per class and it will be difficult for other venues to meet that price. Other possibilities are the Fayette County Agri-life building, but it was decided that was too far for some students and A&M professors to travel. Festival Hill is interested in providing a location, but it will need to match the price at Winedale. Mary Evelyn Sorrell states that the Round Top Heritage Society has a building that might be available, but it is smaller. There is also the Rifleman Hall in Round Top that might be a possibility. For now, it looks as if Winedale will be the location for the 2010 classes.
- Mary will confirm location of training on Monday, November 23rd, after hearing from festival hill.
- Mary will need to get a budget written before the first class.

- Recruiting – Judy Deaton – No Report
 - Status of recruiting for next class (2010)
 - 85 (?) prospects as of now
 - When do we ask for commitments (money) Dave Redden suggests that a letter can be sent out now to all prospective students telling that they should sign up now and the first 25 who send in their money will be accepted as long as they agree to work toward certification and recertification through service work. He will send an email to Judy advising her of this.

- Membership – Martha Koslosky
 - Status of membership reporting of hours. Send your hours to Martha as soon as possible.
 - Status of membership changes – There are 86 members
 - Member milestones, recognition. Gene Luhn recertifies for 2009 and receives his gecko pin. Ruth Mercier gets her certification and dragonfly pin.
 - Background checks – cards for all new members. Larry Pierce will let Martha know when cards will be available for “older” members.

- Program Committee – Debbie Copeland Luhn
 - Nov 21 – Don Steinbach – Conservation easements, Charlotte von Rosenberg – Native Prairie Recognition
 - October 3 water conference with MG, WCWS, TWG, NPSOT successful
 - Debbie hands out a list of prospective speakers for 2010. All are committed to coming on a Saturday.

- Poll of membership for suggestions and comments on best time to do the programs. Debbie states that the committee had been waiting to get back all of the surveys before setting definite dates for programs. So far the majority of members responding wanted to have a program after each board meeting. No one wanted evening meetings.
- Dave suggests that the committee needs to prepare a budget to include paying speakers for mileage.

- Advanced Training Committee – Dave Redden
 - Process for posting updates and notifying chapter – nothing has changed.
 - Join the state listserv and get notices of other chapter events.
 - State meeting is a good opportunity for AT

- Host/Social – Montgomery/Parker
 - December meeting (Dec 5) The social will start at 5pm in the Winedale dining room. There will be nature-related items donated as give aways. If you have something to donate, please do so as soon as possible.
 - Possible events with Top Tenner theme (starting February 16 for new class. Carol) There will be no formal program at the December 5th, dinner, but there will be a short business meeting to elect officers.

Break – 10:25 – 10:40

- History/Library – Cindy Rodibaugh
 - Scrapbook status. Cindy took our scrapbook to the annual meeting. She also included our photographs and newsletters so other MN might see what we're doing.

- Communications – Jan Redden – No Report
 - Newsletter – please submit ideas. Next one in early October.
 - Judy Deaton is doing publicity for class recruiting.
 - Mary Evelyn Sorrell is handling press publicity contacts. She will help with communicating more information about Burton's Indian Creek project.
 - Trifold display panel
 - Web site

- Volunteer Service Projects – Ed Koslosky
 - Current list of known projects
 - Burton cotton gin nature trail on Indian Creek (Montgomery / Ed Koslosky). Ed reports that trees need to be identified and labeled.
 - Work day held. Oct 17. Carol Montgomery reports that there has been some vandalism.

One bench has been stolen. The benches need to be anchored in concrete.

- Native Prairie Restoration (von Rosenberg)
 - Signage for native prairie remnants (von Rosenberg, Rives, Pierce, Reddemann) Twenty signs are being made by prisoners.
 - Seed collection at NRCS. This project is finished for the year. A dozen people participated and Charlotte reports that the NRCS was very helpful. Working with Veronica O' Donnell.
 - Native prairie management tools and techniques brochure (Reddemann, Rives, von Rosenberg).
 - Looking into a co-op for native prairie restoration. Cecil: Guidelines for how to do restoration. Help others with techniques and tools. Charlotte is working on this, including using native prairie hay bales. Mary Evelyn Sorrell suggests that Jill Nokes, author of Propagating Native Plants, may be a good contact.
 - Brenham Elementary School Native Prairie Restoration effort.
 - Dave Redden points out that the OLC at Brenham Elementary School is also the responsibility of the Native Prairie Committee.
 - Status of preparation for planting. Larry Pierce has native seeds that could be put into pots for eventual planting at the school's native prairie site.
 - Charlotte will look into an automated greenhouse located at the high school.

- Outdoor Classroom at Nails Creek SP (Joy Nutt)
 - Offered BES grant of \$1000 to be matched by PTO

- City of La Grange Strides For Nature Trail System property near La Grange. Status of grant application. \$161k from TPWD and \$50k from City. Proposed trail under review. Archaeological review in progress by THC. Hoping to start this winter. (Koslosky / Vogel / Fritcher/ Rangel)

- Winedale Trails and Brush Clearing - - Waiting on UT (Dillingham/Redden). There is a meeting tentatively scheduled for January 15th to hear UT's plans after consultation with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

- Winedale bluebird nest box trail. Need monitoring plan. (Weatherly/Eppler/Milenki). Kathy needs to learn to monitor. Jim Weatherly will talk with her.

- BES Bluebird trail – plans for 2010 spring. Susan Solari is monitoring.

- Support Pioneer Unit of Texas Herb Society in maintaining herb gardens at Winedale (McGregor house) (B Weatherly). Belinda Weatherly reports that a clean up was done and not too much will be happening during the winter months.
- 4-H WHEP team support for Washington County. (Redden and Nutt). Joy is training the students for competition.
- Top Tanners – already discussed above.
- Curly Q Refuge (Behrend) – No Report
- Houston Toad survey – several volunteers are working on this for the state wildlife agency and the Houston Zoo. Volunteers will be driving a route at night, stopping at specific locations and listening for the Houston toad.
- Christ Lutheran Day School (Redden) NRCS Veronica O'Donnell is asking for supplies for nature training tools appropriate for pre-schoolers. We only supply the tools, no teaching.
- Potential Projects
 - New opportunities for service - open for any input or suggestions
 - Dec. 5 in Waller county – TPWD program on skins and skulls. Dave has declined this program because it conflicts with our meeting on the same day.
 - Larry Hilgers states that the Outdoor Institute at Luther Hill needs help from MN on its nature trails – identifying plants, trees, invasives. This is an organization serving youth and adults that has been in operation since 1954. It is located approximately 7 miles north of LaGrange off 2145. Contact is Jen Kindsvatter, P.O. Box 99, LaGrange, TX78945, jen@lutherhill.org
 - There was a discussion about supporting two church related organizations that are open to the public. We reminded ourselves that we are a non-discriminatory organization and will work only with other organizations that are non-discriminatory. We can support any religious organization that supports science-based study of nature consistent with our mission to educate the public in this area. There appears to be no conflict with supporting either of the

two specific organizations mentioned at the meeting.
(Luther Hill and Christ Lutheran Day School)

5. **Other Old Business** – None
6. **Other New Business** – None
7. Next meeting date (December 5) and place (Winedale)
8. Meeting adjourned at 11:53am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Monterey M. White, Secretary