

TMN – Gideon Lincecum Chapter Board Meeting

March 21, 2009

Winedale Historical Center

Winedale, TX

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order. Present: Dave Redden, Larry Hilgers, Randy Reddemann, Jan Redden, Mary Evelyn Sorrell, Jim Weatherly, Carol Montgomery, Cecil Rives, Don Murray, Cindy Rodibaugh, Linda Kay Behrend, Catherine Wampler, Gene Luhn, Dan Anderson, Eliza Henderson, Sue Solari, Ed Koslosky, Martha Koslosky, Judy Deaton
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Reports

President – Dave Redden

Dave reported that we have a new project: a 4-H WHEP team Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (See Volunteer Projects report).

Treasurer – Larry Hilgers

Larry presented the 2009 budget. The budget was adopted in its current state. Discussion: Our projected expenses exceed our projected income for this year, that is, we have a deficit budget. However, we are carrying over nearly \$11,000 from the 2008 budget. Mary Evelyn Sorrell suggested that as a non-profit organization, we should be using a different budget process. Randy Reddemann pointed out that we use a cash-based, not accrual-based check book. Dave agreed to appoint a committee to check into any modifications we may need for our budget process.

Vice President – Randy Reddemann

Randy is working on policy statements that will cover our compliance with Sarbannes/Oxley, whistleblowing, and document retention.

Volunteer projects – Ed Koslosky asked each project leader to report.

- Curly Q Wildlife Refuge – Linda Kay Behrend reported on her recent animal rescue efforts. She works in association with the Lone Star Wildlife Refuge.
- Bluebird boxes (La Grange) – This project will be inactive and removed from the list until we hear from the members working on it.
- Indian Creek – Carol Montgomery reported that the last work day had to be cancelled due to rain, but she is planning one work day on Wednesday, April 22 and another on Saturday, April 25. The foot bridge is completed. Brush needs to be burned and trash receptacles placed. Carol is working on a design for benches.

- Native Prairie Restoration committee - Cecil said that the sign for owners of prairie remnants will be designed by Jan Redden. Randy Reddemann said the brochure that will go out to owners is ready to be proofed and printed. Discussion: Should the Burn Coop administration, planning, and community education be an approved Master Naturalist activity for volunteer service hours. Without voting, it was generally agreed that participation by members in prescribed burns was an approved activity, but organization and administration of the South Central Texas prescribed Burn Co-op is not. Randy proposed that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore the relationship between Native Prairie Restoration committee and the South Central Texas Prescribed Burn Co-op.
- Brenham Elementary School – Cecil and Dave have shredded the 1½ acre area designated as a future native prairie demonstration site. Tom Gore (BISD employee) has volunteered to use herbicide on everything growing in this area, so that native grasses can be planted. More volunteer opportunities, such as working on interpretive trails, will come up for this project later. MNs are not involved in the Sensory Garden currently.
- Czech Heritage area – Janet Rangel has hired an archeological survey done on the area. Gary Fritcher found one bald eagle, but no nests in his survey. Work can begin soon.
- Winedale –
 - There has been a delay in the work on clearing brush and cedar. We await a site plan from the LBJ Wildflower Center on March 25. We have also proposed a process for brush disposal that will allow us to use a technique for planting native grass seed in the ashes of burned cedar trees and brush. This proposal is also under review by the LBJWC staff.
 - Bluebird boxes at Winedale – Jim Weatherly will make boxes; chapter members will install the boxes; Kathy Milenki will monitor them and collect data. Nests will need to be removed after each brood.
 - Herb Society – We need to find some way to improve communications with the HS to give us sufficient notice when work day opportunities arise. Belinda Weatherly is our contact with HS.
- Ag Day at Colorado County – Cindy Rodibaugh and Larry Hilgers demonstrated the rain simulator to school kids in March.

- WHEP Team – Joy Nutt and Dave Redden took the new Washington County team to their first area competition at Sugar Land. The team placed 4th overall and some individuals scored higher than the winning team (Fayette Co.) The kids enjoyed it and plan to be back next year.
- Rainwater Harvesting – Programs will be in Columbus on March 26 and in La Grange on April 3. Dale Rankin is the organizer; Billie Niven, AgriLife Extension representative from Menard, makes the morning presentation for which Adv. Training credit can be earned. In the afternoon is a volunteer project.
- Combined Water Conservation Program – Plans are being made by TPWD, Texas Wildlife Society, Washington County Wildlife Society, Master Gardeners, Washington Co. AgriLife Extension, Native Plant Society, Bluebird Society and our chapter for an all-day program on Saturday, October 3 about water conservation. The South Texas Water Conservation Board will be involved. Chapter members Larry Joe Doherty and Dave Redden are among the planners.
- Top Tanners – Sue Solari and Randy Reddemann will work to get this project started.

Membership – Martha Koslosky

- Martha reported that she has sent the annual report of our chapter's 2008 activities to the state organization.
- We have 75 members currently. Debra and Arthur Nordt and Rick Schilling have become inactive. There are 24 new members in the 2009 training class. 15 members haven't paid yet; e-mail reminders have been sent. More follow-up will be done.
- Background checks are done on each member and are good for 3 years. We will receive cards.
- A question arose about whether Adopt-a Highway programs can be counted as volunteer projects. Martha will check on that.

Training – Jacquy Pearson

- Jacquy reported that a herpetologist has been found for the April 13 class: Bill Brooks from Paige.
- Plans for a plant field trip and a tree ID field trip should be finalized in the coming week.
- Bernie Bennett has been videotaping the class sessions. Jacquy suggested that these tapes could be used by the class members to make up classes they have missed. The motion was approved, with the amendment that no more than two sessions per training class can be made up in this manner.

Program – Gene Luhn

- Today's program: Birding in the Blackland Prairie and Post Oak Savannah, Mark McClelland.
- Saturday, May 16, Dragonflies and Damselflies, with a field trip around the lake, Terry Hibbits
- Saturday, July 16 – To be announced later
- Saturday, September 19 – Introduction to Butterflies and how to do a butterfly count, Dan Hardy
- Saturday, November 21 – Conservation Easements, Don Steinbach
- Mary Evelyn Sorrell volunteered to help on the Program committee.

Advanced Training - no report

Host – Carol Montgomery reported that plans for graduation are underway.

Historian/Scrapbook - Cindy Rodibaugh

- Cindy presented the chapter scrapbook and reported that it would be brought up to date by October.
- Cindy and Judy Deaton will put together a pictorial roster.

Communications – Jan Redden asked for material for the next chapter newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by Jan Redden, for Monterey White, Chapter Secretary