

TMN-Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting
March 19, 2011
Winedale Historical Center
Winedale, Texas

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by President Cindy Rodibaugh. Those present were: Carol Montgomery, Randall Dillingham, Laura Dillingham, Belinda Weatherly, Jim Weatherly, Debbie Copeland, Janet Jarrell, Harold "Lefty" Yarnold, LuAn Yarnold, Carol Daniels, Tom Yates, Cheryl Karr, Charlotte von Rosenberg, Jerry Frazier, Jan Redden, Kathy Steglick, Margaret Lamar, Art Wammel, Wes Davenport, Madelin Johnson, Judy Deaton, and Mary Jones.

President Cindy asked all present if they had read the Minutes sent out to the membership, and if there were any addition or corrections. No further additions or corrections. The Minutes of the January 15, 2011 meeting were approved.

Executive Committee Reports:

President's Report:

Housekeeping/Use of Facilities at Winedale:

President Cindy stated that after our Top Ten Social on February 19, we did not leave the facilities the way we found them. We left the board on top of the 2 chairs. Barbara and Beth (the ladies here at Winedale) were upset about this and had to restore the room themselves. Winedale is glad to have us here, but we need to leave the facilities not like we found them, but better!

Dues: Reminder that \$25.00 Dues are due by the end of March 2011. The dues for the new class members are included in their training fee.

Executive Board Meeting: The Executive Board has met twice (Jan 20 and Feb 24). Discussions involved defining roles, chapter policies, specifically conflicts of interest, program expenses and expense reimbursements, and permanent record storage (how we would comply with the Sarbane Oxley law). All committee chairmen were sent emails requesting they submit a budget at the next chapter meeting. Program speakers not associated with our sponsors (Texas AgriLife or TPWD) would be offered a stipend of \$100.00 and mileage reimbursement.

President Cindy recognized Madelin Johnson and thanked her for her efforts at getting the Newsletter on the website. President Cindy also gave accolades to Elisa Henderson, Gayle Burke, and Sue Solari who all have been highlighted in The Fayette County Record. Elisa and Gayle for their efforts at cleaning the highways and Sue Solari for her gardening program at the RT-C elementary school.

Gayle Burke asked if the hours spent cleaning highways could be counted as volunteer hours. Only if we as a chapter adopted an area could we count volunteer hours, however it is good advertising and reflects well on all of us.

TMN New Chapter Coordinators Training: Our Chapter Charter requires that two members of the chapter complete this training March 30-31 in Kerrville. President Cindy will be attending the Coordinators training in Kerrville. There is a \$60.00 Registration fee and each attendee must pay for their lodging. President Cindy asked that the Chapter pay for the registration costs. A motion was made and seconded for the Chapter to pay the registration fees. All voted in favor. President Cindy also requested discussion regarding the Chapter to sponsor two members to attend the State Meeting in October. A motion was made that the chapter pay the registration fees and mileage reimbursement for two members to attend the Annual State Meeting in October and that the Chapter members will be responsible for their lodging and gas. A motion was made and seconded. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

VP report: VP Art Wammel had no report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Yates reported a balance of \$12,569.50 in our account, but stated that one check for \$150.00 had not cleared, so the check book shows a balance of \$12,419.50. The \$150.00 check is a refund to a student who backed out of training. Tom also reminded everyone that the annual dues of \$25.00 are due by the end of March.

Carol Daniels stated that she will send out a new updated membership list by mid April, and Judy Deaton will do an updated picture roster after the membership listing is updated.

Committee Updates:

Training 2011: Mary Jones reported training is going great. There will be a new Forestry presenter this Monday night, her name is Zana Farrar. She has a new approach and is promising a very interesting program. Daniel Lewis will conduct a tree identification field trip later on. Mary asked if anyone had any suggestions for a "Plants" presenter. This topic is scheduled for the last class and is still unbooked. Mary also presented her budget, she needs approximately \$4000.00. This will cover Training Manuals, (binders and inserts) gas and speaker fees. There was some discussion on speaker stipends and gas money. Some speakers are furnished by TP&W or AgriLife Extension and providing this service may be part of their job description. They may not be able to accept a stipend. Texas A & M has a budget to cover speakers, but some other speakers may need a stipend, gas, or place to spend the night. Elisa Henderson has provided overnight lodging at her B & B in the past. It was moved and seconded to accept Mary's budget of \$4000.00. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Recruiting: Judy Deaton reported that recruiting has been slow, but she has been to 2 events and there has been much discussion, but nothing right now. She has 2 more scheduled for

the month of April, and nothing in May. Judy needs more “Formal” flyers. Copying them does not work. They need to be done by a print shop. Judy will mark up the old Formal flyer with the changes, (adding the new website and dropping the phone number). Jan Redden will make the changes and send the file to Judy to have it printed. Judy submitted her budget for \$500.00 to provide for updates and printing of the formal flyers, informal flyers and display board. It was moved by Lefty Yarnold to accept this budget, seconded by Charlotte von Rosenberg. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Judy also stated that she will send out a new updated picture roster after the new membership listing is complete.

Membership: Carol Daniels reported no hours reported yet for the first quarter, as it is not over yet. Membership milestone: Janet Jarrell was presented with her Initial Certification Pin and Certificate. Congratulations Janet!!! Carol also stated that after all dues are paid by the end of March, she will send out a new updated membership listing. Carol submitted her budget to cover 17 shirts for students, name tags, printing supplies, background checks, other miscellaneous supplies and postage fees for a total of \$1034.00. President Cindy rounded this off to \$1050.00. A motion was made by Carol Montgomery to accept this budget. It was seconded by Lefty Yarnold. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Carol also stated that she will send out a new updated membership list by mid April.

Advanced Training: Margaret Lamar gave a very detailed presentation on a proposed program for BES-OLC. It will utilize the 11 acres in the flood plain adjacent to BES. The first phase will consist of raised beds for a vegetable garden plot and compost bins. She has requested \$2000.00 to help get started. She has been able to get the teachers on board as well as some local businesses to provide supplies as well as possible grants in the future. Much discussion was held on this plan concerning all the benefits to the children now and in the future, and volunteer opportunities for the GLC TMNs. Jan Redden made a motion to accept this request of \$2000.00. Tom Yates seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Margaret will provide to Tom Yates the name to be put on the check.

Invasives Workshop: Judy Deaton reported. The Invasives Workshop is scheduled for next Saturday March 26 here at Winedale. There is no charge; it will be a free will donation. Janet Jarrell is helping with lunch. Carol Daniels mentioned that the Master Gardeners have been told by the State that they must pay either \$10.00 a person or 10% of any fee charged for attending a seminar. Basically, it is a cost recovery program. If this is true, then other programs, such as The New Landowners Program, sponsored by AgriLife may increase. Wes Davenport stated that we need to do some research. Cindy mentioned that if we, as a Non –Profit, charge to attend a program, then Winedale must charge us for use of the facilities. There were lots of questions and discussion concerning this “Cost Recovery” program. Wes Davenport stated that until we are told we need to do this, we treat it as we know nothing. He also moved that we table this discussion until we learn more.

President Cindy mentioned that in addition to the Invasives Workshop other Advanced Training or Volunteer opportunities are available: The weekend of April 15, 16 & 17 is very busy: The Burton Cotton Gin Festival, Antique Rose Emporium, Weimer Workshop (our own Dave Redden was asked to be a presenter), and Debbie Copeland mentioned the Katy Prairie Seed Stomp grassland restoration on April 16th. Also coming up are Wildlife for Lunch Webinars, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Programs.

Host/Social: LuAn and Lefty Yarnold are requesting an amount of \$1200.00. The Host/Social committee provides food, coffee, etc. for the new class orientation, graduation, the 2 Top Ten Socials, the Christmas party/meeting, and the regular Chapter business meetings. They are also going to provide lunch for the Invasives Workshop this Saturday. After a short discussion it was decided to go ahead and buy sandwiches for the Invasives Workshop lunch. Janet Jarrell volunteered to provide a veggie tray. It was moved by Carol Daniels to approve the Host/Social request for \$1200.00. Seconded by Tom Yates. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Newsletter: Madelin Johnson reported that the Newsletter is now online. All members are requested to send her the information and she will write it up. She needs the 5 Ws: Who, What, Why, Where, and When. Remember: No photos of children's faces only the back of their heads are allowed. Judy Deaton requested that President Cindy bring her camera this Saturday to the Invasives Workshop and take some pictures. President Cindy agreed.

Volunteer Service: Carol Montgomery reported that she is "passing the chainsaw" to Randall & Laura Dillingham. They have scheduled a "clean up" day on March 25 at the Burton Cotton Gin Nature Trail before the Cotton Gin Festival on April 16th. Help setting up the tent the night before on April 15th is also needed. So if you can help let them know. Carol and Randall are working on a budget for Indian Creek possibly, \$800 to \$1000.

Prairie Restoration: Neither Randy Reddemann nor Cecil Rives present. Charlotte von Rosenberg reported not much going on. She still has plenty of flyers, signs and artwork for the certificates. Just needs to get the flyers out to all the county Agrilife Extension offices. Belinda Weatherly asked if it would be possible for them to buy another Prairie Recognition sign. Charlotte indicated that it would be possible and would work something out. President Cindy asked Charlotte if any prairie tours were planned. Charlotte replied that no tours planned at this time, however maybe we could do a prairie tour in conjunction with the Tree ID or soil class? Charlotte asked for \$200.00. Lefty Yarnold made a motion to provide \$200.00 for the Prairie Restoration committee. LuAn Yarnold seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Programs: May Program. Debbie Copeland reported that the May program will be 2 hours long and will take place after the May meeting. Pat Merkord, President of the Native Prairie Association of Texas will be the presenter. Her topic will be Identifying Native Prairies. Also Debbie mentioned that on April 17, 18 & 19 the Museum of Fine Art in Houston will be showcasing an exhibit featuring the Coastal Prairies. Carol Daniels asked if there was any way we could video tape our programs. President Cindy stated yes, we can, just need to find someone to do it and make sure we have permission to record. Bernie Bennett used to do it, but is no longer available to do this for us. Wes Davenport suggested that we put their slide presentation on our website, with their permission. There was a lengthy discussion on how to record programs and/or upload photos to our website using various methods, such as "flicker". Belinda Weatherly suggested we add audio to the photo/slide presentation. Wes Davenport stated in order to make the audio in sync with the slides takes a very talented person to create this file. Madelin Johnson said we could off load an MP3 file and then upload the pictures. You could then print the pictures and listen to the audio, but it would not be synchronized. A motion

was made by Wes Davenport to establish a photo gallery on our website for our chapter members. It was seconded by Carol Daniels. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

President Cindy stated that she is attempting to put together a program for July. Our Chapter has not met in July in the past due to Winedale being unavailable. She has asked Carol Daniels to present "Fire Wise Landscaping", and has contacted Kelly Bender from TPWD regarding "Wildscapes" but Kelly has not responded. President Cindy is going to contact either Renck Hall in Warrenton or Cooper Farm in Ledbetter for a meeting location. President Cindy would like to encourage our members to earn volunteer hours by preparing presentations. There was some additional discussion on stipends for speakers outside our sponsors, gas allowance, and mileage. President Cindy stated the stipend is \$100.00 and Tom Yates stated that he current mileage rate is 51 cents per mile, down from 55 cents, but will probably go back up due to gas prices. Judy Deaton made a motion to provide \$750.00 to the Programs budget. It was seconded by Carol Daniels. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Winedale Bluebird Nest box trail: Jim Weatherly reported on the Bluebird nest box trail status here at Winedale. So far there are 3 bluebird nests each with 5 eggs and 1 chickadee nest with 4 eggs. The Bellville 4 Her's were out to Winedale to identify native grasses.

Assistance to the Texas Herb Society at McGregor House: Belinda Weatherly reported on hiatus right now due to the program going on at Festival Hill this weekend. President Cindy suggested that Belinda hook up with Margaret Lamar on plants for the BES-OLC program.

Top Ten Committee: Carol Paulsen (not present), but reported to Cindy earlier she doesn't need a budget just volunteers!

Houston Toad Survey: Nothing to report. Some members have driven the routes, but not hearing anything yet. Randall Dillingham has created a new route with 20 ponds that includes Winedale. President Cindy reminded him he needs to document his actions for Winedale. Randall also stated that those "Big Ears" in the Toad Survey kit really work well. Randall said he has heard cricket frogs, but nothing else. Wes Davenport reported he has heard one leopard frog, President Cindy, a leopard frog and a tree frog. Lefty Yarnold reported seeing a green tree frog. Wes said the digital recorders work really well. He sent an unidentified digital recording to Paul at the Houston Zoo, and it came back as "Insect".

Prescribed Burns: Dave Redden is presenting a program on prescribed burning at the Weimer Workshop on April 16, 2011. President Cindy described her experience last month at a prescribed burn on 15 acres in Lee County. It was an excellent learning experience, but also somewhat frightening. They did not lose any buildings, but they did lose the land owner's wood pile.

Old Business: None reported.

Other Business: Carol Daniels stated that she needs to order shirts for the new class. She asked if any of the ladies had any extra shirts that they could bring to the class on Monday March 28 for people to try on, since the men's shirts fit differently than the women's. If so, please bring them Monday night. We cannot order shirts to try on and then return them.

Jerry Frazier said he will continue to make available 10 or 15 bluebird nest boxes at each meeting and/or social event for a free will donation. He asked if someone would be willing to be the distributor. President Cindy volunteered. An amount of \$10.00 was discussed as a proper amount for each nest box. Wes Davenport stated that once you state an amount it is no longer a free will donation. President Cindy said we will accept any amount in exchange for a nest box.

Debbie Copeland wanted to know if we own a projector, screen, laptop etc. or any other equipment. Is there a list of this equipment? President Cindy stated that the training committee has the projector and screen. The Chapter does not own a laptop. She asked if there was a compiled list of equipment that the Chapter owns and where is that equipment stored? Who do we contact regarding sharing?

Judy Deaton asked Jan Redden if Dave would be available to help set up for the Invasives Workshop Saturday morning. Jan will talk to Dave and let her know.

New Business: None.

A motion was made by Carol Daniels to adjourn. Seconded by Cheryl Karr. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Karr, Secretary Pro-Tem

P.S. After the meeting was adjourned, Mary Kelly-Jones provided a revised budget of \$2770.00 – she had duplicate items on her budget that were also included on Carol Daniel's membership budget.