

TMN-Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting
May 21, 2011
Winedale Historical Center
Winedale, Texas

Our chapter members meeting was called to order at 9:10 by President Cindy Rodibaugh.

Members present included: Belinda and Jim Weatherly, Carol Paulson, Luan Yarnold, Patricia Mathis, Randon and Laura Dillingham, Debbie Copeland-Luhn, Tom Yates, Elisa Henderson, Mary Ann and David Butler, Madeline Johnson, Wes Davenport, Linda Warburton, Peggy and Butch Young, Margaret Lamar, Jacquy and Raye Pearson, Dave Redden, Janet Jarrell, Carol Montgomery.

Cindy offered a special thanks to Cheryl Karr for completing the minutes for the March 19, 2011 meeting. A request was made for additions or correction to the minutes, which have been distributed via email. No changes were offered. A motion by Tom Yates and seconded by Wes Davenport was approved by all present to accept the minutes as presented.

Executive Committee Reports:

President's Report:

Cindy attended the Texas Master Naturalist statewide 2 day New Chapter Coordinator training program at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area March 30-31. This training included detailed information of the process, guidelines, and tips for establishing, implementing and maintaining a recognized TMN chapter. Two members of the GLC have now completed this training, Dave Redden and Cindy Rodibaugh, which fulfills our TMN Chapter and Chartering requirement. The training materials provided will be forwarded to future leaders of the GLC.

The Annual Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training will be held at Mo Ranch, Hunt Tx October 21-23, 2011. Members are encouraged to attend to receive advanced training hours. By getting on the state list serve, members can learn how they might help at the state meeting as well as other opportunities to obtain

volunteer hours. Please contact Michelle Haggerty at mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu regarding instructions to get on the state list serve. (Cindy can send you the information received from Michelle offering volunteer opportunities at the state meeting on request.)

VP Report: Art was not present.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Yates reported the current checkbook balance is \$9371.80. There remains \$5677.00 budgeted funds yet to be used. There was some confusion regarding membership dues. Several members have duplicated their 2011 dues payments. A motion was made by Cindy to maintain a list of members who will receive credit toward 2012 membership dues. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

General Committee Report:

Training: Mary Jones not present.

Cindy reported the graduation social for the class of 2011 was well attended. Wes Davenport announced there will be a Training Committee meeting to plan for the class of 2012 on June 6, 2011, at Nada Ranch, Carmine (Wes's home). There are several positions to be filled and a great opportunity for volunteer hours.

Outreach: Judy Deaton not present.

Two major outreach efforts were accomplished on April 16, 2011. Cindy asked Carol Montgomery to assess the Cotton Gin Festival attendance. Carol reported attendance at our tent station was "pretty good". Cindy reported Cheryl's scat display at the Antique Rose Emporium was blown off the table and the first ½ hour we spent searching the grass for the "fake Poo"! In spite of the windy conditions throughout the day, we had several visitors stop to observe the rainwater simulation, including a large group of Chinese folks who claimed, "they no teach such things in China." Carol Daniels explained her "Firewise Landscape display, and, Carol Montgomery's bird feeder kits were a big draw for the young folks.

Membership: Carol Daniels not present

Membership re-certification milestone pins were presented by Cindy to:

Wes Davenport

Janet Jarrell

Cindy Rodibaugh

Not present: Carol Daniels

 Toni Platt

 John Platt

(Gael Burke and Monterey White received their pins on arrival for the program.)

Jacquy Pearson reported a membership photo roster including contact info of class of 2011 is being "worked on". Judy Deaton is assisting and they hope to have it available soon.

Programs: Debbie Copeland-Luhn/Cindy Rodibaugh

Today's program will be presented by Pat Merkord, President of the Native Prairie Assoc of Texas. The topic will be recognition of Native Prairie Remnants in our area.

No TMN/GLC chapter meeting or program at Winedale in July.

Members are encouraged to attend a program tentatively scheduled for **July 8** in Lee County, sponsored by **Lee County Central Texas Conservation Partners, Resource Managers** for advanced training hours.

Daniel Lewis is involved in getting this venue organized. Janet Jarrell offered to look into coordinating a July chapter picnic, promoting an 'Open House' theme. All members would be asked to invite potential recruits for the next training class.

September 17 will be our next chapter meeting and program of Top Ten Presentations. If you would like to present a topic, please contact Carol Paulsen.

October 21-23 is the state meeting at Mo Ranch. Cindy would like to remind members that the chapter has budgeted financial assistance for two members who wish to attend the state meeting.

November 12 was proposed for chapter meeting and program, due to Thanksgiving holiday.

December 5 has not been confirmed for the Christmas social.

(Nov and Dec dates yet to be confirmed with the Winedale staff.) A discussion regarding alternative location for the Christmas party followed—a church in Carmine was suggested. The 2012 Officers will be selected/announced at the December social.

Volunteer Service Projects: Ed Koslosky was not present.

Cindy encouraged members to review project ideas with Ed for approval for volunteer hours. A mention of the road side beautification effort not qualifying as an approved TMN volunteer project initiated discussion on volunteer projects approved. Guidelines for TMN volunteer projects and request forms can be found on the chapter website. Elisa Henderson reported on her road-side beautification project, and suggested the chapter “adopt 2 miles of highway”, and organize a group of volunteers twice a year to manage it. The signage would create visibility and serve as a recruiting effort. She also shared that Henry Flowers, of Festival Hill has asked if the TMN volunteers would remove *invasives* from Festival Hill? Because the gardens at Festival Hill plant and sell invasive species, there was discussion regarding how such a project might result in conflicting interests .The project would require definition and appropriate approval—a completed request form reviewed by Ed.

Discussion followed concerning another point of confusion: Butch Young, a 2011 class graduate, had reviewed the chapter’s guidelines for reportable volunteer hours on our website, but, did not find the answer to his questions. He had been told, “efforts on private property could not be counted”. His specific questions were, “If I do an invasive plant survey of my own property, can I report volunteer hours?” Also, “to help with a prescribed burn on another person’s property counts for reportable volunteer time, but, if I burn on my own property, do I accrue reportable volunteer time?” Good questions. Discussion among the group followed, including consideration of profit/non-profit status of partner sponsoring activity, who will benefit from the volunteer service. Members were reminded volunteer projects are based on our mission statement and our representation to the community. The form for volunteer project approval is on our website. If you have any questions regarding application of the chapter guidelines or our mission, please contact Ed Koslosky, Dave Redden, or Cindy Rodibaugh.

Advanced Training: Dave Redden

Members are encouraged to watch the ‘Webinar’ tutorials at noon on the 3rd Thursday of each month. To find out how to view, check the chapter website for access instructions. Jan Redden is working on a **Save-the-date** flier for the annual water conference to be held

Brenham, **September 24**. This years conference topic will be rain water collection systems for business and home with multiple displays from local venders per Wes Davenport.

Hostess: LuAn Yarnold

Chapter members are asked to bring a covered dish to share at our next chapter meeting on September 17th. Lunch will be served with a social time between chapter meeting and our program. We have permission from Winedale to use the refrigerators in the kitchen, but are not allowed to cook. Only tea, coffee, and table service will be provided by the chapter. Members may bring meat dishes if desired.

Website: Madeline Johnson

Cindy thanked Madeline for getting the May Newsletter completed. Madeline highlighted the "Summer Assignment" section. Journaling what is in your own backyard can lead to some very interesting Top Ten presentations.

Indian Creek: Randon Dillingham

Randon reports he's waiting on an estimate on building materials for a picnic table cover. He has found a water source, which may allow for new native plantings. He has removed some fallen limbs from the trails. Carol Montgomery reports there is a pile of mulch that has been moved close to the trails. All members are invited to volunteer to spread the mulch, trim broken limbs, cut invasives at their convenience.

Winedale Blue Bird Boxes: Jim Weatherly

One group of bluebirds has fledged, and there is a second round of eggs in one of the boxes. No sparrows.

Native Prairie Restoration: Dave Redden

Winedale Johnson grass has been sprayed three times over the month. Any GLC members are welcome to spray johnson grass at Winedale, but please inform Dave. Wind speed must be below 10mph for effective spraying.

McGregor House Herb garden: Belinda Weatherly

Due to extreme feral hog and armadillo damage, the Herb Society has suspended further efforts at this time. They have discussed projects to

collect funds for fencing. Appeals for fencing made to Austin officials have received not response.

Top Ten Programs: Carol Paulsen

Volunteers needed for presentations on September 17. Carol asked where the chapter projector and screen were. Informed the training committee has the equipment. Carol requested the 15 minute time limit per presentation be strictly observed. Members were reminded to be aware of and respect copyright laws. A brief discussion followed regarding how to obtain permission to use copyrighted materials.

Toad Survey:

The consensus of the ‘frogging’ group, “Tonight (Sat, May 21), conditions are good to run your routes.” Frogs heard to date include: Squirrel frogs, tree frogs, Southern leopard frogs. Dave Redden reported Paul Crump was going to do an ‘on site’ inspection at Art Wammel’s property to identify the recordings Art had sent him and maybe capture one of the mystery noise makers. We all look forward to Art’s report.

Old Business: None

New Business: Cindy Rodibaugh

1) Kara Matheney, Colorado CEA, has requested TMN-GLC consider sponsoring Aaron Weishuhn to the 2011 Youth Range Workshop, June 19-24, 2011. This workshop is a part of the Texas Section Society of Range Management, co-coordinated by Dr. Baron Rector with the objective of “Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles”. Cindy informed the members Aaron is currently completing his sophomore year at Columbus High School in the top ten % of his class. He has been a Buckskin Brigade Cadet, is very active in the Colorado County 4-H, and FFA. Aaron states his goal is to become a ranchland conservationist so, “ I can protect the natural heritage of Texas from land fragmentation, genetic isolation, habitat degradation and invasive species. I would like to work to ensure our state’s wildlife habitat and recreational marvels are protected into the future.”

Belinda Weatherly made a motion to sponsor Aaron’s full registration costs of \$280. The motion was seconded. All members

voted their approval. Tom Yates was provided the information for getting the funds to the Youth Camp Organization.

- 2) Margaret Lamar requested TMN members, especially those with teaching experience, prepare to help conduct tutorials next fall that coincide with the outdoor learning center project at BE. Topics may include, but are not limited to birds, bugs, soil types, weather, ect. Discussion followed regarding a schedule to be available in the fall and coordinating with specific teachers, assignments to be coordinated through Nancy Oertly. Dave reported the current bluebird trail needs attention. Margaret will discuss scheduling with Nancy.
- 3) The Flatonia Parks and Recreation is considering a wildscape for approximately 1.5 acres of a newly purchased 7 Acre Park. Cindy has received approval from Ed Koslosky for work on this effort to be approved volunteer hours and has met with the board to submit ideas for plantings to be used. The board was appreciative, but explained recreational areas of the park were to be considered first. Anyone interested in visiting the park or helping lay out some ideas for a wildscape, please contact Cindy.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50.

Many thanks to Madeline Johnson for taking notes during the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Rodibaugh