

## **TMN-Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting**

**September 17, 2011  
Winedale Historic Center  
Winedale, Tx**

### **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. by President Cindy Rodibaugh. The minutes from the last meeting, May 21, had been distributed via email. No corrections were noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 21 minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Executive Committee Reports:

President---Cindy welcomed members with short review of summer activities. Registration for the TMN Annual State Meeting in October is underway and there are scholarship funds available if anyone is interested.

Vice President---Art Wammel as chair of the nominating committee reported positive responses from those he contacted regarding considering service next year. He would like to see all members more active, and encouraged recent graduates of the 2011 training class to get involved. He passed out notes of paper requesting members write their two main areas of interest and if they would consider filling a position on either the board or a committee. Many opportunities were discussed.

Art stated that he did not want to be President and would like to nominate as Vice President a member who would be willing to take the step up in the future. Cindy has agreed to continue as President for 2012. Final nominations and selection will take place at the December social.

Treasurer---Tom Yates announced a current balance of \$7572.83. \$4177 remains unspent for appropriated for budgeted items. A balance of \$200 has been set aside for dues prepaid for 2012. A \$250 check was approved by the executive board and sent to the state organization in response for a request for sponsorships for speakers for the annual meeting.

This leaves \$3200 available for this year.

Tom reminded the group the chapter members had voted to pay registration fees for two members of \$110 each on a first come first serve basis. Margaret Lamar was approved to receive one of these registration scholarships as a presenter at the state meeting. Other members who stated they planned to attend were Dave and Jan Redden, and Cindy Rodibaugh. If more than one person requests the scholarship funds names will be drawn from a hat.

Dave Redden informed the group the Exxon and IBM grants, which provided \$3000 of last year's income, will soon dry up, so the chapter should begin to consider new grant sources or how to provide for income needs.

Jerry King moved to accept the treasurer's report. Judith Deaton gave a second. Motion carried.

### Activity Committee Reports:

Training: Members of the training committee reported that they had met in June. Toni Platt reported they are attempting to finalize the training roster for the new class and half of the speakers are lined up. Winedale is planning to do some extensive renovations to the Conference room and other parts of the facility and cannot commit to scheduling our new class. Two alternative meeting places suggested were the extension office in LaGrange, and the extension facility at Blinn College in Brenham. The current plan is the new class will start with Orientation on Saturday, Feb 4, 2012, and the first lecture Monday, Feb 6. Site to be determined.

Recruiting: Judith Deaton reports 40 people have expressed interest, but no applications or checks have been received. Fliers have been placed in several places.

Website: President Cindy thanked Madeline Johnson, our chapter web master, for all her efforts in completing the third quarter newsletter. Madeline announced she would continue to maintain the website but would no longer be able to do the newsletter. Carol Paulson volunteered accept the job of putting out the newsletter.

Publicity: It was noted that an announcement for today's meeting did get published in the LaGrange paper. Mary Jones suggested a new approach to getting public exposure by writing a newspaper column, Master Naturalist Question and Answers. The Fayette County Record was approached and they might be favorable to some space in the upper left hand corner of the front page. A possible title for the space: Ask the Naturalist! The Banner Press may also be favorable to the idea. We might submit a trailer, "If you want to know more,..." provide class schedule, website, reference contacts. A committee of five or six minimum would be required to share questions for a monthly publication effort. The column might address questions posed by GLC members. Please contact Mary if you would like to be involved with this effort.

Membership: Carol Daniels handed out several recognition pins.

Receiving Initial Certification: Billie Burns, Tom Yates and Butch Young.

Receiving Recertification: Debbie Copeland, Judith Deaton, Bill Deaton, Madeline Johnson, Dave Redden, and Susan Solari.

Receiving 250 hour service pins: Carol Daniels, Bill Deaton, and Susan Solari.

Receiving 500 hour service pin: Cindy Rodibaugh  
The picture directory has been updated and completed.

Advanced Training: Advanced Training: Dave Redden recommends checking the State website. Get on your AgriLife extension agent's mailing list for emails, etc.! Parks and Wildlife has a similar list for special programs if you get to know your local agent. He reported on a good program at Blinn College yesterday covering the biology of deer, quail and doves, necropsy and biopsies on all those along with information on plants. It was an overall good hands-on type workshop. He says the Blinn campus is a great facility with state of the art TV cameras, etc. However, the only problem is that Brenham is not centrally located for our area. If you have questions re advanced training please ask Dave Redden. Webinars are excellent and it will be pursued if we can count those for AT. Dave will contact the state on that. If you have questions on the software needed for the webinars contact Dave and he can help you with that. Interaction through text is also possible with the speakers. It is very useful technology. Webinars are archived so they can be watched at your convenience. They are presented live each third Thursday of the month. You get a certificate if you answer questions at the end of each session and that also gets you CPU's.

Wes and Dave have been very active putting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Conservation Conference: The Lone Star Water Forum. This will be September 24<sup>th</sup> and is an all-day event. There is lots of hands-on training about how to collect rainwater. This does count as AT.

It was suggested to pursue how to clean up after a wildfire as a possible good future program to be developed with the forestry service.

Dave reports that the Burn Association is now taking dues and working with a 501C3 application. They are joined in the state alliance of burn associations which is getting a charter. Revised

burn bans by certified groups are being put forward to county commissioners.

Social: LuAn Yarnold reports that the Christmas Party is planned for Friday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at St. John's UCC in Burton. The room cost \$75 to rent. LuAn asked that we please bring door prizes—nature related—to the party that night. Lefty and LuAn will not stand again for the social chair in 2012.

Top Ten: Carol Paulson expressed question if this activity should be continued as response has been very limited.

#### Volunteer Service Projects:

Dave Redden, Elisa Henderson, Cindy Rodibaugh and Ed Koslosky will meet with Henry Flowers at Festival Hill on September 19<sup>th</sup> to partner in an effort to identify invasive plant species along their hiking trails. Elisa Henderson invited everyone to use the trails at Festival Hill. She says they are very accessible and varied from the herbal garden to wooded walkways.

After some discussion, the members agreed to participate in the Adopt a Highway program by taking 2 miles between Rutersville and La Grange. This was the last area still available between Round Top and LaGrange and it was felt that this would be a good way to let people know of our group by having visible signage in the area. It could also be a good way to have “on your own” volunteer hours. A committee will be responsible for scheduling pick up days. Safety equipment, garbage bags, and signage will be provided by the state highway department.

There was some discussion of the devastating drought and fire situation. Herpetologist Bill Brooks, who has given presentations to our training classes, was only given five minutes to leave his home. He lost two snakes but everything else and his collections were luckily spared from destruction. Lutherhill was

also hit badly. A few of our plant marking posts are still standing, but most of our work just went up in smoke! Luckily, we have a book to document what we did there. It might be helpful as documentation for what was there before the fire and the process of regeneration of the area after the fire

The garden project at Brenham Elementary School is starting and there is a lot of enthusiasm for this project. Margaret Lamar reports seven 8X4 beds are in place. Master Gardeners are helping there. Seven 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are onboard. It is hoped that this will develop into an outdoor reference center for the entire district. Herbs, a century garden, and the Bluebonnet Garden Club Butterfly Garden are being planned. This is an amazing opportunity for kids to learn. There are trees, a creek, 11 acres, and they can also visit a native prairie restoration project. Some of the ways the children will learn are through observing the seasons, using a new weather station, working in the gardens, keeping nature journals, and making observations. There are many opportunities to grow over the years. Margaret reports that of course the project needs lots of help! So consider volunteering. Many other schools are also getting involved.

Jim Weatherly reports that the bird houses at Winedale have been very active. Two bluebirds had two nests, and raised a couple families while one nest raised three different families. Wrens were in all four boxes on one side. Bluebirds stayed later than usual. It was also noted that Baltimore orioles like the hummingbird feeders and are also attracted especially to oranges and grape jelly. Migrating hummers are here! It was advised to put out sugar water but be sure to change it every two days with these high temps to avoid bacteria growth.

Cindy introduced a special speaker, Aaron Weishuhn, a junior at Columbus High School, and recipient of GLC-TMN sponsorship to attend a Youth Range Workshop in Junction Tx in

June 2011. He gave a wonderful presentation to the group. Emphasis was placed on how our rangelands affect us all throughout all our lives. Areas of emphasis at the Youth Range Workshop were native grasses, rotational grazing, plant collection, and lots of fun competition, which helped with learning such as a range bowl. He showed us his collected grasses, browses, and forbs explaining how a pressed plant gives much more insight than pictures. With the actual plant you can see hairs and other distinguishing factors. With plant collections you also preserve specimens for historical study over time. He challenged us to think about why we have removed those native grasses from our ranges when they flourish in the drought on little or no water. He plans on presenting a speech at the Dallas State fair about native grasses and returning them to the environment. He has been involved in speaking competitions at places such as Kerr Wildlife Management and he won the award there. He told of how when Kerr removed cedar and did control burning native grasses and brush flourished. Water well levels rose 50 feet by cutting down the cedar. Aaron emphasized how simple things can make a big difference. His closing remarks were for a future where we look for the natives, plant them, and grow them. Through this we will increase our state to a better native state, which will be to everyone's benefit. His talk was very well received and everyone agreed that he was certainly a worthy recipient of our sponsorship. He graciously stayed till our business meeting was over to answer questions and meet with members.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 19. A motion was made to adjourn by Wes Davenport and a second by Carol Daniels. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lemae Higgs, Secretary