

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter  
March 24, 2018 Chapter Meeting  
Brenham Fairgrounds VIP Building

President Betsy Palkowsky called the meeting to order at 9:05. There were 45 members present. All officers were in attendance.

There were no corrections to the January Meeting Minutes. Debra Healy moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded and the motion carried.

**Executive Committee Updates:**

President Betsy Palkowsky reported that the tree sale was a success. \$300 was generated for the Bill Deaton Foundation to support new member attendance at the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting.

Jerry Gips and Debbie Copeland were instrumental in obtaining 200 milkweed plants that were offered by the Monarch Watch Organization via the Austin Butterfly Group and The Oklahoma Nursery. Once the plants are received they will be distributed across our various projects.

Blinn College has expressed an interest in partnering with our Chapter. Additional information will be shared once it is available.

Vice-President Earl Mills advised the May Advanced Training topic will be "Bite Me or Leave Me Bee". "Safety in the Field" by Connie Barron and "Fire Wise" by Will Hood of Texas A&M Forest Service are upcoming Advanced Training topics.

Treasurer Leada Dietz presented the March report. February 28, 2018 balance was \$19,920.31. Dues are still outstanding for 18 members.

**Director Reports:**

**Membership/Volunteer** - Chris Morrison: When entering volunteer hours into VMS, specify the activity in the description area for auditing purposes. Be sure to record your time. If you have questions or need assistance please contact Chris.

Four members received initial certifications and two received 2018 recertification. Mary Ann Butler and Ron Peach were recognized for achieving 250 volunteer hours and 500 hour recognition went to Betsy Palkowsky and Nita Tiemann.

**Advanced Training and Past President News** - Cindy Hobbs: Opportunities that have been approved for AT hours will be indicated on our website and the VMS system. Please check for approval prior to attending.

**New Volunteer Opportunities** - Cindy Rodibaugh: Betsy reported we have a new project in Giddings at the historic Schubert House in the downtown area. Check the website for work schedules. Mill Creek Watershed has become a citizen science project. Clean up opportunities

for Mill Creek will be posted on our website.

**Communications** - Lori Buffum: Continue to submit articles for the newsletter to Lori. If you're on Facebook join our group. Everyone can post and it's a great opportunity to share nature items. Sheri Wilcox has taken over as webmaster and is currently reorganizing. Check out the volunteer opportunity section as well as the community events section. Video capability will be coming soon!

**Marketing** - Tom Shaughnessy: Two events are coming up: Aglife Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop on April 6 and the Brenham Pet Rescue Carnival on April 28. If you are aware of public events where our presence would be beneficial, please let Tom know so we can set up our outreach items.

**Youth Activities** - Donna Mueller and Carol Paulson: Check the website for opportunities - there are lots of events and many volunteers are needed. L.A.N.D.S is coming up and that event requires a large volunteer force. Check your calendar and get involved!

Project managers presented updates.

The Stephen F. Austin Park is now open for day use.

The Cotton Gin Festival in Burton is scheduled for April 20 and 21. It's a great outreach opportunity. Please check the website for volunteer information.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Esco  
Chapter Secretary