

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter
July 20, 2019 Chapter Meeting
Brenham Public Library

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 by President Betsy Palkowsky. 54 members were in attendance including officers President Betsy Palkowsky, Vice President Mark Brown, Treasurer Pam Green and Secretary Linda Esco.

A motion was made to approve the May 18, 2019 Chapter Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

President Betsy Palkowsky:

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Conference is October 18 - 20. Registration is set to open August 1 with 166 sessions and 28 off site excursions. Be sure to register quickly as the sessions fill up fast. There is also an opportunity to support the State Endowment through a fund raiser dinner cruise. Check the conference website for details.

Scholarships are available to cover registration fees for chapter members who will be attending the conference for the first time. We have four scholarships available to cover the \$245 fee. Please let Betsy know by September 21 if you are interested in obtaining a scholarship.

On August 3, 2019 the Cotton Gin Festival group will be hosting a thank you for volunteers. More information will be forthcoming.

Nominations are now open for the Lone Star Land Steward Awards. The Lone Star Land Steward Awards program recognizes and honors private landowners for their accomplishments in habitat management and wildlife conservation. The program is designed to educate landowners and the public and to encourage participation in habitat conservation. A nomination form can be obtained from the Lone Star Land Steward website.

Please participate in the Texas Master Naturalist survey that was recently sent out to members. Information obtained from this survey will assist in creating future educational programs.

Project leaders are needed at San Felipe de Austin Museum. The first is to serve as project leader for plant identification, labeling in beds and along trails. The second is to assist lead archaeologist and Houston Archeology Society and serve as a docent at the museum. These projects will be reviewed and approved once we have project leaders identified. Please let Betsy know if you are interested.

Vice President Mark Brown:

Please contact Mark if you have suggestions for future advance training topics. The advanced training for our September meeting will be Native Bees presented by Wizzie Brown.

Treasurer Pam Green:

Current balance is \$17,665.

Secretary Linda Esco:

Fund Raiser Event - our first fundraiser event will be October 11, 2019 at the Washington County Fairground Event Center. Chapter members can obtain 5 advanced training hours for attending all sessions. Topics include: Understanding Land Owner Liability, Understanding the Ecosystem of Your Land, Feral Hog and Nuisance Animal Control Options, Managing Riparian Areas and Understanding Erosion and Controlling Moles and Gophers.

Membership - Chris Morrison:

There were ten recertifications: Debbie Copeland, Judy Deaton, Randy Hegemeyer, David Its, Charlene Koehler, Cindy Rodibaugh, Susan Scanio, Tom Scanio, Charlotte Von Rosenberg and Sheri Wilcox.

Linda Esco was awarded her 500 hour pin.

Cindy Rodibaugh and Donna Mueller were awarded their 2,500 hour pins.

Communications - Lori Buffum:

Our website updates constantly and is a valuable source for information. Please contribute to both the newsletter and facebook page.

Volunteer Opportunities - Cindy Rodibaugh:

We have a new volunteer project - Fayetteville Garden Around the Square. Please fill out the online project request form if you have a volunteer opportunity you would like approved.

Training - Karen Gardner:

Our 2020 training class will be held January 20 through May 4. We will have a new time frame for the sessions. Classes will be held from 1 until 4.

Education and Scholarships - Donna Mueller:

The following 2018 scholarship recipients spoke about their goals and received their \$500 checks.

Hunter Spacek - Austin County
Cole Brothers - Fayette County
Laura Zibilski - Washington County

Open Meeting:

Lori Buffum initiated discussion regarding awarding honorary member status in our chapter. The topic will be addressed at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Esco
Chapter Secretary