

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter
Board Meeting June 4, 2020
Roundtop Texas - Home of Chapter President

President Betsy Palkowsky opened the meeting at 9:50 am.

Officers Present: President Betsy Palkowsky and Vice President Mark Brown

Board Members Present: Cindy Rodibaugh, Chris Morrison, Lori Buffum, Donna Mueller and Karen Garrdner

Members Present: John Gardner

The May 1, 2020 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

President:

State Conference: The TMN state organization is monitoring the CDC standards for group events. At this time there is no decision regarding the Annual Meeting format. The conference hotel, the Omni, is currently still closed.

The planning is in flux. They expect to have some person classes, some field trips and also virtual classes. The state planners are meeting on June 10 to finalize decisions on the 2020 conference.

State Facebook Page Adoption by the Chapters: The state office wants each chapter to take a week and provide content on the state Facebook page. Betsy will do it on June 16 to June 20. She had many ideas about adding activities and things that will engage people.

Vice President:

Advanced Training: Betsy thinks we can have a Chapter meeting with AT and still meet the social standards for group gathering. For example, the VIP building at Washington County Fairgrounds would accommodate about 40 people with sufficient space for social distancing. Once we plan the program, Betsy will talk to Kara Matheney about the availability of a room.

Lori talked about the Heartwood chapter that had a presentation on bats that was extremely well done. Lori will share that contact information with Mark.

Mark reported he had not followed up with the trip to Bastrop State Park because he is not sure what is open and available.

TBD on field trips for the future.

Mark will follow-up on Bamberger field trip in October.

Treasurer Report:

Betsy gave the report indicating a May 31, 2020 balance of \$19,529.68.

Training Committee - Karen and John Gardner:

We had a successful “virtual” graduation on May 4. Following the presentation by Richard Hielbrun on *Laws and Ethics*, we did a power point graduation with photos of each trainee, a copy of their certificate and their name tag. Betsy made opening remarks and we finished with a photo of a cake and some fireworks with music.

We mailed a cover letter, graduation certificate, lanyard and name tag to each graduate. We had 21 graduates. We had one person leave shortly after the course began and three people who plan to finish in 2021.

Betsy is doing a survey of the trainees. Once we have the results of the survey, the Training Committee will meet and do a comprehensive review of this year’s education process. We want to think about the options that we now have to enhance the learning process.

We thought it prudent to send a thank you letter and small gift to each of our presenters this year. We sent them the artwork prints that Linda Esco had - a Texas map with a donkey or longhorn on the front. Not only to let them know that we appreciated their contribution and had a successful program, but to encourage them to think of us fondly and be willing to present again next year. It never hurts to leave them with positive thoughts.

Project Reports:

New Projects - Cindy Rodibaugh:

There are no new project considerations. Cindy will be resigning this position at the end of the year.

Scholarships - Donna Mueller:

Donna shared the current guidelines for scholarships. There were 9 qualified applicants and 4 were chosen. There was discussion regarding changing the criteria to decrease FFA involvement. Our preference would be to include students whose activities fit with our mission.

Chris Morrison and Donna Mueller will adjust guidelines to clarify coverage by our scholarship program. The actual awarding of scholarships has not been determined since there will not be awards banquets this year.

Marketing - Ken English:

Outreach materials at each county office have been checked and updated.

Ken and Betsy will work to combine state info into our brochures. Ken is printing about 100 brochures at a time to allow for easy update and storage.

Cindy Rodibaugh suggested a magnet as a giveaway to include our contact information. The board liked this idea.

Membership - Chris Morrison:

Chris presented a list of chapter members reaching various milestones including those that recently rectified or got their initial certification.

Communications - Lori Buffum:

Lori presented a report on the Chapter Website Task Force. There was discussion regarding creating Gideon Lincecum Chapter email addresses for board members. Betsy and Chris will work on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.

Minutes Recorded by
John and Karen Gardner

Submitted by Linda Esco