

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter
September 4, 2020 Board Meeting
New Ulm Lions Club Building

Officers Present: President Betsy Palkowsky, Secretary Linda Esco and Treasurer Pam Green

Board Members Present: Ken English, Chris Morrison, Lori Buffum, Cindy Rodibaugh

Chapter Members Present: Nita Tiemann, Patti Brown, Jaci Elliott, Lori Hessel, David Hessel, Randy Hegemeyer

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 by President Betsy Palkowsky. The June 4, 2020 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Update - Betsy Palkowsky:

The next chapter meeting will be September 19 at the Cat Spring Agricultural Complex. Meeting starts at 9:30 and all participants must wear masks. The Advanced Training Program will be Coastal Prairie: Native Seed Project and Wildlife Habitat Federation. Doug Jobes of the Native Seed Project will talk about the reclamation and restoration of native grass seeds. Brian Robert, Wildlife Habitat Federation, will discuss what the Wildlife Habitat Federation is and how they might help with personal restoration projects. Immediately following the AT presentations, attendees have an opportunity to visit the native grass plot located in Cat Spring.

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting will not have a silent auction fund raiser this year due to COVID-19. In an effort to support the Foundation Initiative, a Virtual Nature Venture will take place. Lori Buffum and Nita Tiemann will discuss this event and ways to support the Foundation fundraiser at the September meeting.

Officer Updates:

Treasurer - Pam Green: The chapter had an August 2020 balance of 14,479.24. David Hessel will be replacing Pam Green as Chapter Treasurer on January 1, 2021.

Director Updates:

Marketing - Ken English: Ken has researched various handouts for our marketing/outreach activities. Magnets can be personalized for a minimal cost. An e-mail has been sent to all prospects providing information on the 2021 training class. Information will also be added to the Ag Extension newsletters and flyers will be printed and distributed.

Training - Karen and John Gardner: Update provided via e-mail. The concept of our recent *Personal Botany Field Trip* will be shared at the state meeting. The suggestion of mentors for future trainees was discussed. No plans were made to pursue this for the 2021 class.

Membership - Chris Morrison: Please remember that VMS volunteer hours can only be recorded for approved projects. Members continue to accomplish volunteer and advanced training hours. Certification and milestone pins are being mailed.

Chapter dues of \$20 are due before year end.

Chris proposed that background checks for trainees be done when payment is made and prior to the first class. This would allow trainees to begin volunteering quickly. The board approved the proposal.

Website/Newsletter - Lori Buffum: Please provide Lori Buffum or Sheri Wilcox with suggestions for blog items. Remember articles provided for the newsletter count as volunteer hours. Project leaders are being asked to review their project's page on the website.

Projects - Cindy Rodibaugh: There have been no new projects presented to the committee for approval. Effective January 2021 Jaci Elliott will replace Cindy Rodibaugh as committee chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Esco
Chapter Secretary