

HCMN Board Meeting
October 18, 2006

Present: Betty Gardner, Ronald Hood, Susan Longacre, Marilyn Murrmann, Sandy Pena, Bob Richie, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley.

Absent: Jane Crone, Kathryn Harrison, Phyllis Muska

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by President Jim Stanley..

September Chapter meeting: After some discussion, the presentation on the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Project at the September meeting was determined to not be AT.

Plant Sale: Priscilla Stanley, Plant Sale Co-chair, reported that our Down By the Riverside Nature Fair and Native Tree & Plant Sale was a great success. At the end of the Plant Sale on Saturday, October 14 at 3 PM, we had a cost basis in the unsold plants of only \$60. Informal plant sales will continue to our members and to visitors at RNC. This success was made possible by the excellent support from our TMN members, who worked 81 shifts from Wednesday, October 11 through Saturday, October 14, and support from our event partner, Riverside Nature Center and their volunteers as well. Our volunteers worked in nearly every available position from plant docent, plant cashier, TMN Chapter display, parking assistance, greeting table, children's activities, canoe paddling, nature presentations, speaker introduction, setup, cleanup, plant labeling and more!

We enjoyed excellent attendance at both the Members Only Pre-Sale and the public Plant Sale. Our fundraising was enhanced by the contribution of native plants by our members and several of our vendors. The final financial report should be available in November.

Speakers for Future Chapter Meetings: Vice President Bob Richie reported that the speakers would be as follows:

October: Mike Meche of the Texas Water Resources Institute of the Texas Cooperative Extension in Ft. Stockton with a presentation entitled "Texas Water Issues & Hill Country Water Resources".

November: Christina Williams, the Wildlife Biologist specializing in Endangered and Threatened Birds for Texas Parks & Wildlife in Austin with a presentation on "Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler".

TMN Chapter Holiday Party: Bob Richie reported that he had contacted several potential locations and had selected the First United Methodist Church in Kerrville for our party. This event will be a luncheon on a Saturday in December. After some discussion, the Board agreed to subsidize to cost of the party to celebrate the graduation of our fifth training class.

TMN Multi-Chapter Holiday Party at Cibolo Nature Center: Jim Stanley agreed to determine the date and status of this party for 2006.

Chapter Archives: Susan Longacre, the Chapter Archivist and Board member from the Class of 2005, is still seeking information for the archives for certain years, including chapter chronology, newsletters, Board Minutes, and the Class Applications (a table of these data is appended to the hard copy of the Minutes).

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Murrmann reported we have \$6,795.37 in the bank.

Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialist Certification Program – update: Priscilla reported that she and Jane are continuing to plan for this training program on teaching wildland fire preparedness. The program was developed by the Texas Forest Service Urban-Wildland Interface group. Current plans are to hold two 8 hour days of classroom training in mid-February in Fredericksburg. There is then a two week break allowing trainees to complete a personal project on some aspect of wildland fire preparedness or how this information could be shared with the public. The classes conclude with an 8 hour field day practicing actual site assessment for wildland fire preparedness and presenting the personal projects, followed by a graduation celebration. The dates will be finalized when we have confirmed the five speakers.

Chapter Volunteer Policy Review:

The Board discussed the current Chapter policy of allowing officers and members to count all the hours that they spend on our TMN Chapter business as Volunteer hours. Some Chapters limit the hours that can be counted. The Board was satisfied with our current Chapter policy.

The Board recommended having a clarification on the current statements on "work for another organization." Many of our approved Volunteer projects are sponsored by other organizations, however, each of these projects meets our requirement of either teaching about natural resources or providing an educational demonstration, such as native plant gardens at the library or at Riverside Nature Center.

The Board reviewed the rules for Volunteer work on private land. Acceptable Volunteer projects on private land include research, teaching, or advising the owner on natural resource issues. It is unacceptable to make improvements or perform work to benefit a private landowner.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.

Next Board meeting: Monday, November 20, 2006 at 2:00PM. Please note this is earlier in the week than our regular meeting to avoid meeting the day before Thanksgiving

Respectfully submitted

Priscilla B. Stanley

Priscilla B. Stanley, Acting Secretary for

Kathryn N. Harrison, Chapter Secretary