

Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting October 22, 2008
October 2008 Board Minutes

Present:, Janet Csanyi, Warren Ferguson, Lee Kneupper, Martha Miesch, Phyllis Muska, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley

Absent: Dan Behringer, John Huecksteadt, Annie Rendon, Jerri Workman

The October meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by President Jim Stanley.

- 1. Acceptance of Minutes for September Meeting:** Board members had no additions or corrections to the Minutes sent to them for review.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Martha Miesch reported expenses this month of \$100 for Class tuition rebates for two members of the Class of 2007 who certified, \$306.80 in New Class expenses from the Class Manager, \$150 for honoraria for three presenters for Class Training who were not TMN members and did not work for a government agency or university, \$931.06 for chapter shirts for our members from San Saba Cap, Inc. and \$54 for our chapter post office box in Kerrville, for a total expense of \$1,541.86. Income included \$1,596 for 52 TMN Chapter shirts, \$450 for tuition for three members of the Class of 2008 and \$50 from a New Class member donating their tuition rebate to the chapter. The closing balance for October is \$9,061.50. The Treasurer's Report is appended to the archival copy of the Minutes.
- 3. October Chapter Meeting Program:** Vice President Warren Ferguson reported that that Bill Armstrong, a retired Wildlife Biologist from TPWD would be speaking on "Prescribed Burning" for our October meeting program. Secretary Priscilla Stanley suggested that since Bill Armstrong is a recognized expert in prescribed burning and no longer works for TPWD that he should receive an honorarium. Warren Ferguson moved that Bill Armstrong should receive a \$50 honorarium for his presentation and Priscilla Stanley seconded. The motion carried.
- 4. New Class Curriculum Guidelines Update:** Last month, Communications Director Janet Csanyi suggested that the Board review the New Class training topics and provide recommended training topics and preferred presenters who have given excellent presentations in previous years. Janet tabulated the recommendations received from the Board members into a four page summary giving the suggested topics, descriptions of the topic content and speakers. The Board discussed this very useful document and agreed that it should be added to the current New Class Guidelines document. The Board thanked Janet for all of her work on this New Class Curriculum Guidelines document.
- 5. December Board meeting:** The Board meets in December primarily for turnover discussions between incoming and outgoing Board members. It was agreed that the regular Board meeting date (the Wednesday before the fourth Monday [which is not necessarily the last Monday]), December 17th was not too close to the holidays to require changing the meeting date.
- 6. Cost for Chapter Website Hosting:** Our webmaster submitted a bill for the 2008 web hosting through 12/2008. The cost since inception of the website in 2003 through 2008 was \$812. These bills were first submitted in early 2008 and the Board has been able to pay \$286 to date. After some discussion, the Board agreed to pay half the outstanding balance and then further review our financial status.
- 7. Chapter Newsletter:** Communications Director Janet Csanyi reported that Donna Robinson, our Chapter newsletter editor for 2007 – 2008 has asked to be replaced. Janet is seeking a member interested in editing our electronic newsletter which goes to 170 members and as many as 100 prospective members.
- 8. Unbudgeted Expenses:** Our Chapter co-sponsors the Down By the Riverside Native Plant Sale and Nature Festival each October with our nature partner, Riverside Nature Center as an educational event for the public and our only chapter fundraiser to cover our expenses. The street banner for Down By the Riverside was too worn to use in the future. Thus, Riverside Nature Center ordered a new multi-purpose generic banner with pockets for information that can be changed for each event. The expense is to be divided proportionally among the three Spring and Fall event co-sponsors with Riverside paying 50%, and TMN and the Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter each paying 25%, which is \$150. This expense will be deducted from our chapter's profit from the Down By the Riverside Plant Sale
- 9. Chapter Holiday Party Update:** Our Holiday Party Committee Chair, Jean Parreira, and her Committee members Sandy Freeman and Janet Csanyi, have planned a Mexican-themed Holiday Party on **Saturday, December 6th** at Cibolo Nature Center with a catered lunch at a cost to our members and guests of \$5/person. They are currently e-mailing an invitation to our members. Reservations are being taken and the \$5/person payment will be sent to Treasurer Martha Miesch by November 25th, or given to Priscilla Stanley at the training classes if Martha is not present. The cost to our chapter will be within the \$500 budgeted for this event..
- 10. Friend of the Chapter Award:** Some years a Friend of the Chapter award is made to a person who has done something special for the Chapter. The award, as defined by the State TMN Program Office, cannot go to a chapter member. The award is a Copper Dragonfly. Past recipients have been Susan Sander for helping start our Chapter, Rufus Stephens, TPWD for helping to start our chapter and being our TPWD Advisor, including driving from Boerne for our Board meetings for our first two years, and Bill Lindemann and Bill Ward, both of whom teach our training classes and lead special field trips for our Chapter. No recipient was selected for this award in 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Stanley, Secretary

11/3/08