

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
November 19, 2008**

November 2008 Board Minutes

Present: Warren Ferguson, John Huecksteadt, Martha Miesch, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley

Absent: Dan Behringer, Janet Csanyi, Lee Kneupper, Phyllis Muska, Annie Rendon, Jerri Workman

A quorum is present because Phyllis and Dan have given their Proxies to Membership Director John Huecksteadt.

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

1. Acceptance of Minutes for October 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 \$150 for Class tuition rebates for Bill Burns, Charlene Randel and Mary Morten who certified, a \$50 honorarium to Bill Armstrong for his presentation on "Prescribed Burning" at our chapter meeting, \$400 to Webmaster Kim Whitaker for web hosting expenses, \$417.18 to Bear Moon Bakery for lunch for the Class of 2008 Commencement and \$125 to Cibolo Nature Center for room rental for our Chapter Holiday Party on December 6th for a total expense of \$1,142.18. Income included \$399 for TMN Chapter shirts and \$125 for 25 reservations for our Holiday Party, for a total income of \$524. The closing balance for November is \$8,442.68. The Treasurer's Report is appended to the archival copy of the Minutes. Martha reported that the Chapter made approximately \$750 from selling chapter shirts to our members.

3. November Chapter Meeting Program: Vice President Warren Ferguson reported that Dr. John George, the former head of the USDA Insect Lab in Kerrville, will be speaking on "Bee Colony Collapse Disorder".

4. New Class Curriculum Guidelines Update: Past-President and Committee Chair for the New Class Curriculum Guidelines Phyllis Muska updated this document with Janet Csanyi's recent study on the topics and speakers that have been recommended by Board members for future Class Training Curricula. Secretary Priscilla Stanley noted that the nametag template would be valuable to include in the document as well. Earlier classes had "convention-style" nametags with a very large font first name for ease of reading, with their full name and city below. The Board agreed.

5. 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 \$1086. These bills were first submitted in early 2008 and the Board paid \$286 in January 2008. After some discussion, the Board agreed to pay half the outstanding balance, which is \$400, for a total of \$686. It was noted that these costs appeared to be at a higher rate for a secure site, which is not necessary for our chapter use. Communications Director Janet Csanyi noted that the State TMN office now offers free website hosting using Grovesite.

6. Holiday Party: Treasurer Martha Miesch reported that 35 people to date had paid reservations for our Holiday Party.

7. New Children's Activity Proposed: Member Donna Robinson reported that she would like to start a new children's activity. She had attended two sessions of Advanced Training on developing activities for children at the TMN State meeting. She had questions about the TMN Youth Protection Screening program. President Jim Stanley discussed the information our chapter had received in 2005 from the Texas Cooperative Extension (before it became the Texas AgriLife Extension) in response to our inquiries on specific types of volunteer projects. Most of our projects involve teaching only, not direct supervision of children and these projects tend to be sponsored by other organizations, which are then responsible for

supervision of the children. Donna had some policy questions. Since a majority of the Board members were not in attendance and new Board members had already been named, this topic was deferred to the 2009 Board and Donna was invited to return in January.

8. Mealy Blue Sage: Secretary and Down By the Riverside Plant Sale Co-chair Priscilla Stanley reported that a few years ago the nursery trade had introduced a cultivar (believed to be a “natural hybrid”) known as Mealy blue sage ‘Henry Duelberg’. This cultivar is very different in appearance from the native mealy blue sage, having deltoid leaves instead of linear leaves and needing more water than the native to perform well. Last year the nursery trade in this area sold only the cultivar, but it was no longer designated as the cultivar. It was sold as “Mealy blue sage, *Salvia farinacea*”, which is name of the native plant.

Mealy blue sage is an excellent native, highly deer-resistant, long-flowering, xeric plant that we should have available to sell at our native plant sale. David Winningham of Natives of Texas Nursery in Kerrville is willing to grow native Mealy blue sage for our plant sale. We typically pay one-half when growing begins and the remainder when the plants are picked up for sale. We will make less profit on these custom-grown plants, but Priscilla believes it is a matter of keeping an excellent native plant available to the public. The Board supported the custom growing of Mealy blue sage for our October Native Plant Sale.

9. Change in Volunteer Hours Reporting Form: Membership Director John Huecksteadt reported a need to change the Volunteer Hours reporting form on our website Members Only page. It currently collects “acres impacted” and “direct and indirect contacts” by each volunteer event. Since each member now sums his or her hours spent on a given project for the month, it seems logical to also sum the “acres impacted” and “direct and indirect contacts” by each project for the month as well. The Board agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Next Board meeting: Wednesday, December 17 at 1:30 pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab. Hill Country Chapter members and Advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Stanley

Secretary

12/5/08