

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
February 20, 2008**

FEBRUARY 2008 Board Meeting

Present: Dan Behringer, Janet Csanyi, Warren Ferguson, John Huecksteadt, Lee Kneupper, Martha Miesch, Phyllis Muska, Annie Rendon, Jerri Workman

Absent: Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley

Guest: Donna Snow Robinson, Newsletter Editor

The February meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Vice President Warren Ferguson.

1. **Approval of minutes from January meeting.** The minutes from the January meeting were approved.
2. **Discussion of Advanced Training reporting.** John Huecksteadt and Lee Kneupper led a discussion concerning issues with the current tracking system used for reporting Advanced Training (AT) and volunteer project hours. Lee has already made some structural changes to collect the data in a form where it will be more useful to us. Dan will create a numbering system for AT events so that they can be reported and tracked more efficiently. Lee will be the keeper of both the project and AT lists rather than have multiple users making changes. He will then forward the updated lists to the webmaster. It was also agreed that the duplicate codes for projects and subprojects in the project list should be eliminated.
3. **Approval of programs at monthly meeting as AT.** Warren brought up the question of whether we could consider approving programs at Chapter meetings in advance, since other AT events are usually approved before the event occurs. John made a motion that the AT director pre-approve all monthly meeting programs except where the material is obviously not technical or advanced enough. Warren seconded the motion, which carried. Janet Csanyi will see that Dan gets the program information each month, and he will then let Donna know whether the program qualifies as AT so that she can include the information in the newsletter.
4. **Reminder to Board members to take care not to overstep into other members' responsibilities.** All Board members agreed to carry out their respective responsibilities as described in the Chapter Operating Handbook.
5. **501(c)3 status.** Warren reported on what would be involved if the Chapter wishes to pursue 501(c)3 status. He checked with an attorney who said the cost would be \$500-\$1000 if we already have our own by-laws. This amount includes approximately \$300 in filing fees. It was decided to hold off on further discussion until we have sorted out our budget.
6. **Treasurer's Report and proposed 2008 budget.** Martha Miesch distributed the February Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$5,962.31. She also distributed a comparison of 2006 and 2007 expenses and income. There was some discussion of the various line item amounts, and some were modified to accommodate projected 2008 costs. Martha will redraft the budget with the new amounts for further review.
7. **Gifts for speakers at monthly Chapter meetings.** Warren confirmed that we will continue inviting speakers at our monthly meetings to dinner to show our appreciation for their time and effort. In cases where the speaker declines the dinner invitation, some other token gift may be appropriate.
8. **Class Planning Committee Round Table.** Annie Rendon announced that the Class Planning Committee will hold its round table discussion on March 12 at 1pm at Riverside Nature Center. Board members are encouraged to participate.
9. **Request for funds.** Donna Robinson said that she would like to be able to print the newsletter in color for those few members who do not have e-mail, and asked that the Chapter pick up or split the cost of a color toner cartridge. The request was tabled pending finalization of our budget.
10. **Adobe Acrobat cost.** Janet reported that the cost of Adobe Acrobat would be \$45 if we had 501(c)3 status. Lee mentioned that there are other lower cost or free alternatives we could consider as long as we are not an approved 501(c)3.
11. **Electronic newsletter distribution.** There was some discussion as to the best means of distributing the electronic version of the monthly newsletter, and whether it should be posted to the web site with a note and link sent out to the membership once it is available each month. This topic will be addressed more fully at a future meeting.

12. **March speaker.** Warren announced that our March speaker will be Tim Schumann, a Private Lands Biologist with the Fish & Wildlife Service in Austin. He will speak on wetlands and habitat restoration in the Hill Country.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next Board meeting: **Wednesday, March 19 at 1:30pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab** (left side of the pavilion). Hill Country Chapter members and Advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Muska
Past President
Acting in the Absence of Secretary Priscilla Stanley
2/22/08