

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
February 18, 2009**

February 2009 Board Minutes

Present:

Julie Clay, Janet Csanyi, Steve Dodge, Jim Gardner, John Huecksteadt, Bob McKinley, Martha Miesch, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley and Gracie Waggener

Absent:

William Lummis

President John Huecksteadt Called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

1. Acceptance of Minutes for January meeting: Board members had no additions to the minutes sent to them for review, and gave their approval.

2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Martha Miesch reported that the first deposit from a member of the 2009 classes had been received. The Board approved the budget report.

3. MLMP Class: The Board took into consideration the request made by Ginny DeWolf, to pay for the room fee at RNC for the MLMP program in April. The MLMP Program is an approved volunteer project, and this will qualify as advanced training for that project. As our Chapter will also be hosting guests for Junction and San Saba, the Board agreed that the Chapter would pay the room fee.

4. Vice-President's Report: Jim Gardner asked for clarification on budget limits for guest speaker gifts, and or meals. The Board decided that Jim would escort the speaker to dinner, and the speaker's meal would be purchased by the Chapter, but not the meal of a spouse or other guest.

The Board also discussed appointing a Chapter member who would notify the Chapter members in times of deaths or illness. It was decided to create a position of Contact Coordinator. Chapter members would then have someone to contact, if it was their desire that the chapter be notified. The person selected for the position would have to be approved by the Board.

5. June Picnic: Options and ideas were discussed for the June picnic. The Board took into consideration several parks, and is looking into options for the park that will get the largest member participation.

6. Website and Newsletter: The Board gave well deserved congratulations to Janet Csanyi and Phyllis Muska for their hard work on the new website, and also to Kristie Denbow for the newly formatted newsletter.

The Board discussed options for using the new Grovesite website, such as reporting volunteer and AT hours. It was tabled for later discussion when the website has been up and running longer. Also discussed was the option of using the website's broadcast feature to notify members of new AT opportunities, and urging members to use the calendar for updates.

7. Missed Class Make-up: Although responsibility for managing class make-ups is shifting to New Class Director, Julie Clay (Membership Director) said she would continue work already begun to help students identify and make up missed classes from the 2008 class. Bob McKinley will work with Julie to identify 2009 classes that may be acceptable for make-up if other suitable classes cannot be found sooner. Bob reported that he had reviewed the missed class spreadsheet prepared by John and Julie for the 2008 class and found only one class not repeated in the 2009 schedule.

8. Speaker Gifts: The Board discussed items that could be used for Speaker gifts, such as hats or mugs. Another consideration was using the copper dragonfly pin that is available. It was decided that one dragonfly pin would be presented during the year, generally at the Christmas party, and other items would be used for the other speakers as the chapter has many during a year's time.

9. AT and Volunteer: It was reported by Priscilla Stanley, Director of Volunteer Projects, that two new gardening projects have been approved in Gillespie County. Priscilla also reported that she is working with Lee Kneupper on hours being reported correctly. There appears to be some confusion on some project codes, so the goal is to help members report what project they are actually working on. It has been found that it is usually a numerical error. Also, in some cases, more members are working on certain projects than are reporting hours for that project. It is their goal to understand why some members are not reporting, and if they can help to get members to report their hours for their work.

Steve Dodge, Director of Advanced Training that for the month of January, members reported 71 hours of Advanced Training.

10. New Projector Rules: The new projector purchased by the Chapter was discussed, along with the rules for who and how the projector can be used. The rules are there to protect the investment of the Chapter, and not to restrict the use of the projector. The Board agreed with the rules presented by Jim as reasonable.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gracie Waggener