

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
April 22, 2009**

April 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 the March meeting.** The Board reviewed the minutes for approval. A motion to accept was placed by Jim Gardner, and seconded by Steve Dodge.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Martha Miesch presented the Treasurer's report for March. A motion to approve was placed by Bob McKinley, and seconded by Steve Dodge.
3. **New Class Report.** Bob McKinley reported to the Board that packets for the speakers, which include confirmation letters, schedules, maps and information have been sent out. The New Class Committee is on schedule with planning and fulfilling their duties.
4. **Membership.** Julie Clay reported that contacts were made at the Earth Day celebration with several prospects for the new classes, and she will be sending packets to them. Also, articles will be going out to the area newspapers in the last week of April, and the brochures for the new classes will be placed by Julie Clay and Janet Csanyi throughout the area at the same time.

Also discussed was the progress made on finding a replacement for Lee Kneupper, who is stepping down as the Chapter Data Manager. Two people who are being considered are Sandy Leyendecker, and Lloyd Hemmert. Sandy does not have Access skills. Lloyd has both Access and Excel skills. He has the Access program on his computer at work, but not at home, which means he would have to purchase the program. Julie will be moving forward with Lloyd working with Lee to get the transition started.

As a follow up note: Michelle Haggerty reported that the State website reporting system is not ready for release. Rather, they have lost the funding for the individual retained to develop the program, so the program is on hold at this time.

5. **Chapter Campout.** The Board decided to move ahead with the Chapter campout at Guadalupe River State Park in October. The announcement will run in the Chapter newsletter for one more month, and an announcement was made at the April Chapter meeting.
6. **Chapter Picnic.** The date for the Chapter Picnic has been set for June 21st at 2:30pm, and will be held at Jim Kiehl Park in Comfort. Mary Frances Watson will be heading up the planning committee.
7. **Other Board Business.** Vice-President Jim Gardner announced that the speaker for the Chapter meeting on July 27 would be Carter Smith. As Jim anticipated a large community turnout for this speaker, he asked to secure the UGRA Building, at a cost of \$30.00. The Board approved the cost for the use of the building.

With the May meeting moving up one week earlier because of Memorial Day, John Hucksteadt will send out a Chapter wide email to notify members of the change.

Another email to go out Chapter wide is the announcement that we now have our own projector for meetings, and that it is available for members to use in Chapter presentations, saving the Chapter the cost of renting a projector from other organizations.

The minutes for the March Board meeting were amended to reflect the new slate of officers for 2009. This was done for paperwork and legalities at the bank.

8. Volunteer Requirements and Guidelines. Priscilla Stanley brought before the Board the guidelines for volunteer service hours. This document came from Michelle Haggerty, the Master Naturalist Program Coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife, to give Chapters some guidance in approving projects. Priscilla asked for help from the Board to decide on two different requests for projects, and if they fit those guidelines.

The first request was for an Organic vegetable garden at a church in Comfort. The vegetables will be used to feed the hungry, the land managed in an organic way to protect a nearby creek, and future plans for a rainwater harvesting system when funds are available.

After much consideration and discussion, the decision was presented and made by Michelle Haggerty. The garden does not meet the requirements for a TMN project, and will not count as volunteer hours.

The second request was from a member who has been asked to sit on the Board for the City of Kerrville Parks Department. He will be able to count the hours served for that Board as volunteer hours as he was asked to serve because of the work he is doing in the park that are TMN projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

The next Board meeting will be **May 13, 2009 at 1:30pm at the Riverside Nature Center Lab.**
Hill Country Chapter members are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gracie Waggener
Secretary