

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
August 19, 2009**

Present: Julie Clay, Steve Dodge, Jim Gardner, John Huecksteadt, Bob McKinley, Martha Miesch, Phyllis Muska, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley

Absent: Will Lummis

President John Huecksteadt called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m..

1. Acceptance of Minutes for the July Meeting:

The Board reviewed the minutes for approval. A motion to accept was made by Jim Gardner, and seconded by Phyllis Muska. The motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Martha Miesch presented the Treasurer's Report for July. A motion to approve was made by Steve Dodge, and seconded by Jim Gardner. The motion carried.

3. New Class Reception:

Plans were discussed for the reception, and the refreshments and materials needed for the reception were covered. The Board will arrive at 6:00 p.m. to set up for the meeting and the reception.

4. Gillespie County Fair:

The Hill Country Chapter will be represented at the Gillespie County Fair with a booth. As the booth will be unmanned, John will set up and take down the display.

5. Membership:

Membership Director Julie Clay reported that the attendance for the July meeting, with speaker Carter Smith, was 109. Approximately 40% of that number was from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

In New Class preparations, all Mentors have at this time met with their class members to introduce them to the program, and pass out the curriculum.

The need for a Chapter contact to handle questions from the general public was discussed. Jim and Priscilla Stanley agreed to take on the job, and will stop by the Ag Extension Office to leave their phone number and contact information.

6. Project Grants:

The first request for project funding was received from Riverside Nature Center in the request of \$400.00 to finish a signing project. The Board decided to table the decision, as Riverside Nature Center did not have bids from local manufacturers attached to their request.

A second request is anticipated from the Kerrville Schreiner Park Butterfly Theatre. That request was not ready at the time of the Board meeting, and will be presented at the September meeting.

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7. Board of Directors Nominating Committee:

Seats on the Board of Directors, that will be vacated at the end of the year, will require a nominating committee to name candidates to fill those positions. The committee, which will be headed by Jim Stanley, should be in place by September. Candidates will be named in October for a member vote in November. All current Board members have been asked to consider serving an additional term.

8. New Classes:

Preparations for the new classes, which start August 26, are complete. The new class members will be presented at the August Chapter meeting by their mentors.

Any Chapter information that needs to get to the new class should be sent to Bob McKinley, New Class Director, who will pass on that information with class business.

9. New Volunteer Projects: Priscilla Stanley reported that there are several new volunteer projects. One is at the Friesenhahn Cave, where there is an archeological study being conducted. There are several chapter members who are interested, however no one has been there yet.

Another new project will be Bats and Bridges in the spring, with the training for the project offered at the TMN State Meeting in October.

The plant sale, scheduled for the Down by the Riverside event was discussed. More volunteers are needed for the event. Another consideration discussed was if there is no rain, should the plant sale be held with the watering restrictions. It was decided to watch and see if there is rain between now and then.

Priscilla has also prepared an up-dated project list with new numbers with the new class coming in who will be looking for their projects.

10. September Chapter Meeting: Vice-President Jim Gardner reported that the speaker for the September meeting will be Mark Duff, who will talk about how to take care of trees in a drought, oak wilt and which trees to select for our area.

11. Communications: Phyllis Muska reported that Bob McKinley, with new classes in the fore front, will be writing a report for the newsletter about his position as New Class Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 1:30 pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab. All Hill Country Chapter members are always welcome to attend.

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Respectfully submitted,

Gracie Waggener
Secretary