

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
September 23, 2009**

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

Absent: John Hucksteadt, Will Lummis, Gracie Waggener

Vice-President Jim Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm at the request of President John Huecksteadt who was out of town.

1. Acceptance of Minutes for August Meeting: The Board reviewed the August Minutes. Phyllis Muska moved to approve the Minutes, and Jim Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Martha Miesch presented the Treasurer's Report for August. Steve Dodge moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Jim Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. 501(c)(3) Status Update: Jim Gardner reported for John Huecksteadt that John is still putting together a summary of the Chapter financial data for the past four years required for the 501(c)(3) submission. Phyllis Muska offered to provide some additional data.

4. HCMN Participation in Kerr County Water Saver Contest: Volunteer Projects Director Priscilla Stanley reported that this contest was started in 2009 and was open only to residents receiving water from the City of Kerrville. In 2010, the contest will be open to all Kerr County residents, including rural properties. The 2010 contest will be sponsored by the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District and the Kerrville Public Works Department. The first goal of the contest is to provide information to Kerr County residents on the importance of water conservation, especially in the landscape which can account for up to 50% of a typical family's total water usage. The second goal is to publicize actions that each resident can take in their landscape to reduce the water needs of their landscape, including keeping their native vegetation. If HCMN were to provide two judges for this contest, we could provide input and education on conservation of natural resources such as water, habitat and native plants. It was proposed that HCMN participants be experienced in land management, as evidenced by experience in our Land Management Assistance Program. Other judges would include two members of the Hill Country Master Gardeners as in 2009 and two members of the Native of Plant Society of Texas – Kerrville Chapter. After some discussion, Board members agreed that participation in this effort would be within our TMN Mission of "promoting the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities."

5. Nominating Committee: Past-President and Nominating Committee Chair Jim Stanley reported the Committee's progress on the slate of officers for election in November to serve in 2010. Committee members included Cathy Downs and Phyllis Muska. The current nominees include John Huecksteadt for second term as President, Gracie Waggener for a second term as Secretary and Cathy Downs for Treasurer. The Committee has a member currently considering the Vice-Presidential nomination.

6. Obligations Regarding Class Materials that the Presenter Did Not Pass Out as Handouts: New Class Training Director Bob McKinley noted that some presenters, such as Professor Fred Smeins from TAMU, leave us an electronic copy of their presentation. This is their intellectual property and thus it was felt that it would be inappropriate to put the presentation on our website, especially since most PowerPoint presentations are not intended to stand alone. The current practice of having a class member volunteer to make CD copies for members requesting seemed most appropriate. While it can be convenient to have an electronic copy of a presentation that one has attended, it was agreed that these copies should only be made if the presenter offers an electronic copy.

7. Two Requests for Volunteer Project Funding:

Cathy Downs, HCMN Project Coordinator for the Kerrville-Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden Project KR-01-B, requested funds to purchase identification signage for 40 plants for a total of \$405.

Jim Gardner, HCMN Project Coordinator for the Kerrville-Schreiner Park Habitat & Wildlife Management Project KR-01-E, requested funds to purchase materials to build another wildlife water guzzler to provide water to wildlife in the park area across Bandera highway from the river to encourage wildlife to utilize the park more evenly. The amount requested was \$220. After discussion, Jim Stanley moved to fund both requests. Phyllis Muska seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

It was noted that John Huecksteadt provided a sign for the KSP Butterfly Garden indicating that "This garden is maintained by Hill Country Master Naturalists". This sign was re-located from a project in Fredericksburg that has become inactive.

8. Proposal for Donation to Texas Lions Camp: Jim Stanley noted that the Texas Lions Camp has been very supportive of our Chapter by allowing us to use their excellent meeting room for our New Class Training from late August through late November, including three afternoon Advanced Training sessions, for four or five years a fee far below market rate. After discussion, Phyllis Muska moved that our chapter make a \$300 donation to the Texas Lions Camp in appreciation of their long-term hosting of our training. Steve Dodge seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

9. Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce - Community Calendar: Vice President Jim Gardner reported that he had learned that we can add our educational chapter meetings that are open to the public to this community Calendar at no cost. The Board agreed that this would be a cost-effective way to enhance our outreach to the public.

10. Updates and Reports by Directors and Officers:

Volunteer Projects Director Priscilla Stanley reported that a new children's nature education program (CC-12-A - Texas Wildlife Association L.A.N.D.S. with Project Coordinator Koy Coffey) is starting this month.

In addition, our chapter has agreed to support the Center Point ISD in a middle school outdoor nature education program next year hopefully involving a TPWD grant. We have leveraged our efforts with our chapter members Leanne Beauxbeanes, the TPWD Interpretative/Education person at Hill Country State Natural Area and Koy Coffey (see Project above). This program was initiated by the new Center Point Superintendent of Schools.

Advanced Training Director Steve Dodge indicated that the Calendar showing AT opportunities on our chapter website, and the AT details when one clicks on the event, is working very well.

Membership Director Julie Clay reported that Lloyd Hemmert, our chapter Database Manager, will continue to input our hours in September. New Database Manager Sandy Leyendecker, will also input hours into her copy of the database in September to validate her ability to use the database.

New Class Training Director Bob McKinley reported that the Geology Field trip that was rained out has been re-scheduled for Saturday, November 7th at Hondo Creek. Bob also noted that New Class expenses are within budget.

Vice-President Jim Gardner reported that our September speaker will be Mark Duff, of the Texas Forest Service for Kerr County (and many other counties as well) on "Oak Wilt, Managing Trees in a Drought and Tree Selection".

Our October speaker will be Rebecca Flack from The Nature Conservancy. She will discuss The Nature Conservancy's work in Texas, including their Western Rivers of the Edwards Plateau Project.

Our November program will be on "Managing Feral Hogs".

In December, we will have our Holiday party for members and spouses or partners, which will be held in Kerr County this year. Volunteers are being sought to form a Holiday Party Committee to organize this popular event.

Our January speaker will be Mark Klym from TPWD, Wildlife Diversity Branch in Austin giving a presentation on "Hummingbirds". Mark is the TPWD expert on hummingbirds.

The meeting was adjourned to 3:08pm

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 1:30pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab. All Hill Country Chapter members and advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Stanley

Acting Secretary for Secretary Gracie Waggener

10/18/09