

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
April 21, 2010**

Present: Laura Baker, Dan Behringer, Cathy Downs, Steve Dodge, John Huecksteadt, Susan Longacre, Sandy Peña, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Gracie Waggener

Absent: Koy Coffey

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

1. **Approval of Minutes for the March meeting:** The Board reviewed the minutes for the March meeting. Sandy Peña moved to approve the minutes, and Susan Longacre seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Officers and Directors Reports:

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for March. She also reported that 50% of the members who receive their initial certification are refunding their \$50.00 back to the Chapter. Steve Dodge moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Jim Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **New Class Committee :** Cathy Downs, New Class Director, also reported that there have been some changes made to the Class Schedule. The entire class committee agreed that the day that had been planned as AT will now be included in the class course, and class members will be required to attend. They have also worked in more breaks in the day, and Speaker confirmation packets were being sent out to the speakers.

Cathy also reported that the committee had found some curriculum in storage, which will save the Chapter money, and the Chapter will also save money on the Speaker stipends that had been budgeted, but would not be needed. The Committee is working to keep Tom Schall informed about the changes and updates, and are extending an invitation to him to attend classes and commencement.

4. **Vice President's Report:** Sandy Peña brought to the Board the options for the monthly meeting venue, as our Chapter seems to have outgrown Riverside Nature Center. The Board discussed options for other buildings, and other counties, and agreed that the UGRA Building would best fit our needs. Steve Dodge moved that the Chapter Meetings will be held at the UGRA building for the remainder of 2010, and other options for 2011 will be explored. The motion was seconded by Cathy Downs, which carried unanimously.

Sandy is also encouraging personnel with Texas Parks and Wildlife to attend the monthly meetings.

5. **Volunteer Projects:** Priscilla Stanley reported that Bill Lindemann, with Wings Over the Hills Nature Festival is asking for volunteers for the festival. He is also looking for someone to take on the Cactus Garden at Lady Bird Johnson Park in Fredericksburg. Priscilla will add the Wings Festival to the projects list.
6. **Advanced Training:** Steve Dodge is still getting a lot of good Advanced Training opportunities, including a Riparian Workshop in Uvalde, and many opportunities at Cibolo Nature Center
7. **Communications:** Susan Longacre has the new class brochures out, and articles are being written for the newspapers and the newsletter for May.
8. **New Class Representative:** Laura Baker has been contacted by teachers and parents, and asked if the Chapter provides speakers for schools. Any interested party can contact John Huecksteadt for information and contacts.

Chapter Business:

Chapter Picnic: The Chapter Picnic has been set for June 12 at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. Members are to bring their own food and drinks. Notice of the picnic will go out in the newsletter and by email.

Phyllis Muska requested funding for the classroom for the upcoming Invasive Species workshop. Priscilla Stanley moved that the Chapter pay the room rent, and Jim Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Stephanie Sutton from the Fredericksburg NPSOT and Nature Center will be a potential class student in the fall classes. She requested that her son, whom she home schools, be allowed to attend classes with her. State requirements are not met by this request, as no one under 18 years of age is allowed to attend classes.

501(c)(3): John Huecksteadt reported that the State of Texas Comptroller's Office has not yet granted the Chapter Tax Exempt Status. This is expected to come within the next three months, as the State is running three months behind in processing applications. Chapter members can now claim mileage for any volunteer projects.

With all business discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gracie Waggener
Secretary