

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
February 23, 2011

Present: Anne Cassidy, Steve Clyburn, Vern Crawford, Cathy Downs, Reidun Hilleman, Susan Longacre, Bob McKinley, Phyllis Muska, Lisa Williams.

Also attending: Floyd Trefny

President Phyllis Muska called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for January Meeting: Upon review of the final version of the January Board Meeting minutes, there were 2 corrections which still needed to be made. Anne Cassidy will make these changes and resubmit the document to the board members for approval. The final version will then be forwarded to President Phyllis Muska who will send it on to Dean Schmelling to be posted on the website.

Phyllis suggested that the Master Naturalist gate signs which have been for sale as a fundraiser within our chapter, be offered to other MN chapters since they are generic in design. The board being agreeable to this idea, Phyllis will check this with Michelle Haggerty.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for January. Bob McKinley requested that the column heading 'totals' be changed to 'net' as that more accurately reflects the positive and negative amounts. Bob then moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with the changes. This was seconded by Susan Longacre. Motion carried.

2011 Class: Lisa Williams had previously distributed the new class speaker schedule to the board by email. She reported that the speaker slots are 95% filled with the outstanding slots having not returned calls, being retired or sending regrets. There is no speaker for soils and it was suggested that Steve Nelle be contacted for suggestions. The third field trip has not been decided upon, but Lisa is working with Koy to suggest a ranch to visit. Enchanted Rock was suggested. However, it is currently listed under AT and will not be considered for a field trip this year. The Herff Ranch near Cibolo Nature Center is a possibility for this field trip.

Cathy Downs offered to conduct the segment on 'Interpretation' if Lisa can not find another speaker.

The board discussed the fees charged for the new class program. It was agreed that there was no reason to change the current fee of \$150 with a \$50 refund upon initial certification.

It is important to get the new class brochures out as soon as possible

Earth Day – April 16:

HCMN display - Priscilla Stanley will coordinate schedule

Milkweeds For Monarchs – Cathy Downs requested milkweed plants for this display.

Butterfly Tent – We have been given twice the space for this display, but need more volunteers to help---please!

Susan Longacre will ask Dean Schmelling to post the information about Earth Day on the web site.

Kendall County Landowners – April 16: This event is being held the same day as Earth Day at Riverside Nature Center. Phyllis Muska suggested that HCMN set up an LMAP table. It was proposed that we ask the Hill Country Master Naturalists in Kendall County and the participants in the LMAP class in March to attend the table.

3 K Ranch: Phyllis Muska announced that the TPWD has accepted the offer from the estate of the late Bessie Mae and Albert Kronkosky of their 3 K Ranch of 3700 plus acres to be managed by TPWD for the use and enjoyment of the public. Rufus Stephens, wildlife biologist with TPWD, stated that it will at least a year before a decision is made on the management issues – whether the land will be a park or a natural area. The suggestion was made to consider having our chapter picnic there on June 25.

Big Springs Ranch: Ward Miller has requested help from the Hill Country chapter to provide volunteers for projects at this ranch. The Big Springs Youth Ranch (part of the non-profit Christian conservation group, A-ROCHA) is a 7000 acre area located near Leakey. It is outside our county area but is adjacent to HEB Camp where we conducted an LMAP visit as an approved project. This ranch is in the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter territory. However, that is a small chapter and contact information has been difficult to find. The primary tasks for which volunteers are needed are aquatic studies and native grass restoration. We have an opportunity to influence stewardship here and perhaps conduct an LMAP. Since the distance is great, any work would probably require a weekend. Most of the board seemed interested and a motion was made by Vern Crawford to tentatively agree to the project, pending receipt of a formal proposal from Ward Miller, who would be the project coordinator. Reidun Hilleman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Officers and Directors Reports:

Bob McKinley reported that Sky Jones-Lewey has agreed to speak at the March chapter meeting on Riparian Systems. Bob also gave everyone a copy of the speaker lineup for the chapter meetings through November. No one has yet been scheduled for January 2012. Vern Crawford recommended Carl Fabre, an interpreter at Enchanted Rock who is very knowledgeable and interesting.

Steve Clyburn reported that he has had a difficult time getting information from organizations to be able to assign AT codes. In some cases, he has had to assign the codes after the fact for the attendees of the event.

Lisa Williams would like to include a class on ethics in the new class program and will see if this can be included in Richard Heilbrun's presentation.

Susan Longacre reported that she will not be archiving newspaper clippings. The purpose of the archives is to retain information about the programs. Retaining the press releases will achieve that. She wants to make sure the original documents of the chapter are retained.. The minutes of the first three years are not currently available. Priscilla Stanley will be contacted to see if she knows of their whereabouts.

Reidun Hilleman reported that she will update the volunteer project list to include “Wings Over the Hills”. It will be listed under a project code for ‘other education in Fredericksburg’.

The agenda item ‘Fundraising Ideas’ was deferred until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

The next meeting will be **March 23, at 1:30 PM in the RNC Science Lab.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary