

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

Present: Anne Cassidy, Steve Clyburn, Koy Coffey, Cathy Downs, John Huecksteadt, Reidun Hilleman, Susan Longacre, Bob McKinley, Phyllis Muska.

Absent: Vern Crawford and Lisa Williams

Also attending: Floyd Trefny

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

Acceptance of Minutes for February Meeting: Koy Coffey made a motion to approve the minutes from the February Board Meeting. Cathy Downs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for February. Cathy stated that she had sent out an amended Treasurer's Report Wednesday morning. The February budget report shows, under donations, a net of zero. This reflects an expense (donation from the chapter) offset by equal income (member donation to the chapter).

The Treasurer's report shows several stipend checks which have not been cashed. Cathy Downs will check with Bill Carr and Bill Lindeman concerning their checks. They may wish to donate the money back to the chapter.

Bob McKinley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Susan Longacre seconded. Motion carried.

AT hours for monthly chapter meeting: Phyllis Muska asked that the time taken for AT hours be clarified. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a member's time recorded for AT for a chapter meeting should be the length of time of the speaker's presentation only. Phyllis will send a reminder to the membership.

Update on 3K Ranch status: The chapter picnic scheduled for June 25 can not be held at the 3K Ranch. There is no access at this time

Bear Springs Blossom Ranch was suggested as a location for the picnic. However, it was noted that this venue would be too small for our group. It would be a better field trip for a limited number of people.

Several other venues were suggested for **the picnic** – Joshua Springs Park, which is big enough; Last Chance Forever could accommodate 30 people, but shade is limited. Majestic Ranch on SH46 between Boerne and Bandera was suggested. Phyllis Muska will ask Sandy Pena to investigate this possibility.

2011 Class Application: Koy Coffey passed out a copy of the application for admission to the 2011 Master Naturalist class. There are no changes from the previous year's application except the dates. Koy will send the application to Dean Schmelling to post on the website.

The New Class Brochure has been updated. The board agreed that it was well done. A suggestion was made to change the wording slightly under the Herff Farm field trip. Instead of using the word 'tour', it should read 'explore' "an old farmhouse where nature and history still stand porch-to-pasture." This will be corrected and the brochure posted on the website.

Steve Clyburn brought up the need to generate more income and Cathy Downs acknowledged that we probably need to increase tuition. She suggested that this be considered next year and that the refund upon certification be continued.

Koy Coffey presented the **2011 Class Agenda** for Lisa Williams, New Class Director, who was unable to attend the meeting. It was asked, if there is a name missing from the speakers' list, does that mean we don't yet have a response? Barron Rector has not yet confirmed, nor has Chad Norris. Andrew Sansom was suggested for water ecology. Koy will follow up with Lisa on speaker status. The times listed on the agenda are for committee planning purposes only and will not be published for the members. When completed, the New Class agenda will be posted on the website.

Earth Day – April 16: It was noted that on this same day, trees are being given away near Schreiner University. This will impact the traffic to the Earth Day plant sale.

Floyd Trefny reported on the Chapter's booth at the **Bandera County 'Green' Show (Landscape and Garden)** at Mansfield Park in Bandera. Floyd and Karla Trefny and Jerry Hjelmsted attended the booth and talked with many people about the Texas Master Naturalist program. They gave away seed packets which Karla had fashioned. The Bandera Bulletin took pictures.

Wings Over The Hills: This event will take place April 29 – May 1 in Fredericksburg. Cathy Downs suggested that the chapter have a table which would be great exposure for us. The cost is \$100. John Huecksteadt made a motion to approve. Koy Coffey seconded. Motion carried. John will coordinate this project. Volunteers are needed.

Friends of The Chapter: Phyllis Muska proposed that a page be added to the membership spread sheet for Friends of The Chapter – Susan Sander, Rufus Stevens, Bill Lindeman, Bill Ward, David Langford. The purpose of this is to have contact information for these individuals and to assure that they are invited to events.

Officers' and Directors' Reports

Susan Longacre reported that there will be a new feature on the website – a place to sign up to receive the newsletter. This would be a good recruiting tool. On the same topic of marketing and communication, Dean Schmelling, webmaster, has investigated the Word Press application and stated that it is meant for a blog. It would give the chapter more opportunity for interaction,

but takes time to monitor. Dean does not feel he has the time to do this. John Huecksteadt is opposed to the idea of a blog.

Bob McKinley proposed a trip to the Bonenberger place – Bear Springs Blossom Ranch. It is a small acreage with some good things. Because of the size of the property, a field trip would have to be limited to about 10 people. It was decided that our next board meeting would be preceded by a field trip to this property at 9:30 AM followed by lunch and board meeting at Bob McKinley's home. Lunch is Bring Your Own.

Bob also reported that Sky Jones-Lewey, the March chapter meeting speaker, is the new President of Hill Country Alliance. She is also featured in an article written by Steve Nelle in the latest edition of Texas Wildlife Association magazine.

Reidun Hilleman reported that she would like to include regular volunteer project days on the chapter's website calendar. This would be an excellent way for new members to find out about projects and become involved. She also proposed that the 'Board and Chapter Work' Volunteer Project Coordinator be changed. The board agreed that the name should be changed from Priscilla Stanley to Reidun Hilleman

Anne Cassidy stated that she will be out of town on the date of the May board meeting, May 18, and asked for someone to take notes. Cathy Downs said she would ask Gracie Waggener to fill in for that meeting.

Steve Clyburn reported that 60 AT codes have been assigned so far this year – a much greater number than this same time last year. Steve would like to know how many AT hours are from webinar attendance. Koy Coffey will ask Sandy Leyendecker if she can pull this number from her data. Steve also reported on the chapter's involvement at the new Kroc Center in Kerrville: The chapter is participating in the children's after school program 1 day a month. Martha Miesch is coordinating the project and would be glad to have volunteers to help.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

The next meeting will be **April 20 at Bob McKinley's in Pipe Creek following a field trip to Bear Springs Blossom.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary