

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
September 21, 2011**

Present: Anne Cassidy, Steve Clyburn, Vern Crawford, Reidun Hilleman, John Huecksteadt, Susan Longacre, Phyllis Muska

Absent: Koy Coffey, Cathy Downs, Bob McKinley, Lisa Williams

Also Present: Gracie Waggener, Tom Hynes

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

Acceptance of Minutes for August Meeting: John Huecksteadt made a motion to approve the minutes from the August Board Meeting. Vern Crawford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gracie Waggener presented the Treasurer's Report in Cathy Downs' absence. Reidun Hilleman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Steve Clyburn seconded and the motion was carried.

Annual TMN Meeting: Melody Rose Baker and Anne Graves from the new class will be receiving scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting. Hill Country Chapter received 2 scholarships because we are gold sponsors for this meeting. Vern Crawford and Karla Trefny have volunteered to staff our table. More volunteers are needed.

Volunteer Hours: Phyllis Muska, Reidun Hilleman and Sandy Leyendecker met with Richard Heilbrun and Michelle Haggerty from TPWD on September 1 regarding the tracking of volunteer hours. Sandy presented volunteer hours from the Hill Country Chapter for the last 2 years. The chapter representatives answered questions regarding the type of work done on the projects. 22,000 hours from 4 chapters are needed for the grant received by TPWD. Flora and fauna surveys can not be counted. Board of directors' work is counted.

Nominating Committee: John Huecksteadt reported that all elected positions for the 2012 board of directors have nominees, except the position of President. The following people have agreed to run for office: Vice President, Tom Hynes; Treasurer, Floyd Trefny; Secretary, Anne Cassidy. Reidun Hilleman will continue as Volunteer Project Coordinator. Steve Clyburn will continue as AT Director.

Water Guzzler for KSP: Jim Gardner has requested that another water guzzler be installed at Kerrville-Schreiner Park. The site has already been chosen and \$200 is needed to purchase materials. Jim would like to have the guzzler installed in time for bow hunting season. Park personnel will fill the guzzler. The board suggested that Jim and Floyd contact Lowe's about helping with the materials.

Name Badges: We are looking at Master Naturalist name badges with magnetic clasps. John Huecksteadt commented that in his experience with this type of clasp, the badges were too easily knocked off of a shirt. Gracie Waggener will research the magnetic clasps. Office Depot reportedly carries them.

Chapter Advisors: The chapter has 2 advisors. Roy Walston is our AgriLife advisor and Mike Lloyd from TPWD. Phyllis reported that Mike Lloyd has left the area and Michelle Haggerty has volunteered to take on that role as TPWD advisor for our chapter. It is important to have the support and input from both entities.

Changes to Chapter Operating Handbook: Proposed changes to Appendix C, item 15: page 11 – paragraph 15 – change “first date of class” to “first meeting of class” (to include class reception). Page 13 – last paragraph – change “first date of class” to “first meeting of class” (to include class reception). John Huecksteadt made a motion to accept this change in wording. Vern Crawford seconded. The motion carried.

Phyllis asked all of the board members to review the Operating Handbook and make suggestions for revisions. Any changes to the COH, must have a vote of the whole chapter.

‘Donate’ button on website: Dean Schmelling is working on this feature along with Kristi Denbow. The software, CEDO.pdf, costs \$59. The application, along with the donation may be done online.

Directors’ and Officers’ Reports:

Reidun Hilleman updated the board on plans for the Christmas Party. She stated that there has been some feedback (negative) on the idea of a potluck. It has been suggested that chairs be set up in small groups and tables not be used. Biodegradable plates will be purchased (500 to a lot) and can be used for other functions.

Bob McKinley sent a written report which Phyllis read. Justin Foster will be presenting at the chapter meeting on Monday, September 26. October speakers will be Duane German and Amie Treuer-Kuehn of TPWD speaking on their 5 year Texas Ecological Systems Classification Project. In November, the speaker will be Dr. Rich Kostecke of Texas Nature Conservancy speaking on the spring and summer (2011) comprehensive bird survey of the entire Love Creek Preserve acreage. There will not be a speaker in December as we will hold the chapter Christmas Party on December 10. In January 2012, Rufus Stephens will speak on the significance of the Kronkosky property which TPWD acquired and is assimilating into their domain.

Steve Clyburn reported that 127 AT numbers have been assigned to date in 2011.

Vern Crawford stated that he receives more and more comments each class. He said that he will send a summary of the classes’ reaction to each speaker after the classes are over.

Koy Coffer as reported by Gracie Waggener – all is running smoothly.

Cathy Downs – Gracie Waggener reported in her absence. All of the HCMN bags have been sold. Hats need to be reordered and the shirts are selling well. These items will be on sale at the next chapter meeting, September 26. Hopefully, all of the gate signs can be sold at the state meeting. In November, the plan is to sell all of the samples and then start over next year.

Susan Longacre reported that the first “draft” of the ‘donate’ button has been completed. Cathy Downs will help complete this project by working with PayPal. There will be an email to the

membership and a notice in the newsletter when it is ready. This should happen before the end of the year to capture end-of-the-year donations.

Susan passed around the article from the Kerrville Daily Times about Jered Silverman's presentation to the class of 2011.

Susan said that Melody Rose had expressed her appreciation to the board for her scholarship to the state meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

The next meeting will be **October 19 at 1:30pm at RNC Nature Lab.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary