

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
November 12, 2012**

Present: Anne Cassidy, Daneshu Clarke, Steve Clyburn, Sally Garrett, Eileen Gotke, Reidun Hilleman, Priscilla Stanley, Floyd Trefny

Also Present: Carolyn Bean, Vern Crawford, Lenore Langsdorf

Absent: Tom Hynes, Paula Smith, Phyllis Muska, Michelle Haggerty

President Priscilla Stanley called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for October 2012 Meeting: The October minutes were recorded by Sandy Leyendecker and presented by Anne Cassidy. Floyd Trefny made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sally Garrett. Motion carried.

Alternatives to Disclaimer in newsletter, The Texas Star: Priscilla Stanley granted Lenore Langsdorf's request that this agenda item, listed as # 6 on the agenda, be addressed at this point so that Lenore could make her other commitments. The current disclaimer in the newsletter appears at the bottom of the last page: *"The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse items of interest published in The Texas Star. Items of interest are for information only. Opinions expressed are those of the authors."* Priscilla commented that this is not a particularly "reader friendly" statement and also not meaningful. Priscilla has spoken with our chapter advisor, Michelle Haggerty and she is not familiar with other Texas Master Naturalist chapter newsletters' disclaimers. It is our duty to be as correct as possible since we represent our sponsors, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Priscilla reviewed the recent newsletters of all TMN Chapters on the TMN State website. Only two TMN chapters in the state have a disclaimer in their newsletters, Tyler and Hill Country. Priscilla passed around a document she had composed which gave background information on the disclaimer that has been used since January 2011, as well as 2 suggestions for revisions. One of these suggestions was made by Lenore Langsdorf, newsletter editor. There was a discussion about the 2 proposed disclaimers which are similar but address different points. It was suggested that the 2 statements be combined. Daneshu Clarke made a motion to do so. Reidun Hilleman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lenore Langsdorf stated that as newsletter editor she should comment. She does not like the wording in the first sentence of the first proposed revised disclaimer. Reidun suggested placing the #1 revision with the logo or the mission statement and said she felt that the 2 disclaimers should be separated. Further discussion followed and it was agreed to bring this topic before the board at another time; there being no urgency regarding this item. There will not be a newsletter published in December.

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. Money has been moving out of the account due mostly to speaker honorariums and purchased promotional merchandise. On page 3 of the report there is a \$314 deposit which has not cleared. Floyd will have to go to the bank to resolve this issue. The chapter account balance, at this time, is \$12,973.59.

In the Holding Account, there has been an increase in activity due to the Annual Meeting. Floyd will send Michelle Haggerty a list of the transactions.

Reidun Hilleman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Daneshu Clarke seconded. Motion carried.

The October Budget Report presented by Floyd shows that October income was well above budget at \$1976.00 and year-to-date about \$1000 above budget. During October expenses were about twice that which had been budgeted. However, year-to-date expenses are \$331.10 above the budgeted amount.

The board had asked Floyd for a separate income/expense report on promotional merchandise. Each board member has received a copy. The report shows \$3766 in income and \$2514 in expenses. The approximately \$1200 profit represents cash received as well as inventory.

Floyd proposed that the chapter thank Gracie Waggener publicly for the outstanding job she has done promoting our chapter in this manner. He made a motion to recognize Gracie with a written resolution. Reidun seconded the motion. Motion carried. Floyd will write the resolution and send it to Priscilla who will present it to Gracie at the Chapter Meeting on November 19.

Floyd presented the proposed 2013 budget. There was some discussion about the class training line items. Reidun made a motion asking everyone to look over the line items and get back to Floyd by November 19 with recommendations so that he can prepare the budget by the next meeting. Daneshu seconded the motion and the motion carried. Floyd noted certification refunds are budgeted under administration expenses, not under new class expenses. We can expect to see a lot more certification refunds in 2013.

Update on Holiday Party: Reidun reported that there has been only a small response so far to the party scheduled for December 1. She will be at the chapter meeting to receive money and reservations. She will also send out another flyer. Tom has been making the actual party arrangements. There will be a singer/songwriter as part of the entertainment. Daneshu stated that there would be arts and crafts for door prizes.

Fundraiser, Down by the Riverside Native Plant Sale: Priscilla reported that expenses for the plant sale were high, almost \$3000. The attendance was low due to a triathlon and the fact that the Kerrville Daily Times had reported possible rain and flooding for that day. Revenue was \$6275 and had been projected at \$4854. The increased revenue came from 300 native plants grown and donated by Priscilla, which had a zero cost basis. The Hill Country Master Naturalist chapter share of the proceeds was \$1641.

Policy for Compensation of Chapter Meeting Speakers: Daneshu Clarke addressed this issue in Tom Hynes' absence. We attempt to have qualified speakers who may have to travel some distance to the chapter meeting. Presently the speaker compensation consists of dinner with board members and accommodations at someone's guest house, if needed. Tom is suggesting that we offer compensation around \$75- \$100, which is usual. Reidun made a motion to budget \$75 per speaker per evening. Steve Clyburn suggested adding mileage, but Floyd thought this should not be included. Reidun then amended her motion to place a line item in the 2013 budget for \$1000 to be used as honoraria for each chapter meeting speaker. Daneshu seconded the motion. Motion carried. Taking the speaker (and spouse) to dinner will be continued.

Per Daneshu, Tom recommends continuing the chapter meetings in the UGRA auditorium. He will negotiate the contract for next year.

Priscilla proposed that we offer Carter Keairns a \$75 honorarium for his presentation at the October chapter meeting. Reidun made the motion to do so and Sally Garrett seconded. Motion carried. Daneshu will send Carter Keairns' information to Floyd.

Officers and Directors Reports

Steve Clyburn: Steve reported that he has issued 192 AT numbers so far this year; 50 ahead of last year at this time. Most AT events have been in the Boerne area and Guadalupe River State Park. He suggested that we needed more AT in the Kerrville area.

Eileen Gotke: There are 29 members who received awards as of October. Of these, 7 are from the new class with 2 being special recertification. Eileen stated that she and Reidun had been contacted by a Master Naturalist with membership in another Texas chapter who would like to do volunteer work with the Hill Country Chapter.

Daneshu Clarke: 32 trainees completed the class. Commencement will begin promptly at 8:30 AM on November 14 at Cibolo Nature Center. Dr. Barron Rector is the featured speaker. Ben Eldredge, Cibolo's Adult Education Director and a member of our chapter, will talk about Cibolo Nature Center. Lunch is potluck and there will be a tour of CNC. The board is invited to attend.

Sally Garrett: Sally announced that J.D. Clarke has been selected by the new class to represent them on the 2013 board.

Sally also wanted everyone to know that the medicinal garden has been started at Riverside Nature Center. It is a volunteer project. Use the general RNC code until a new code is established. Sally will be the project coordinator for now.

Vern Crawford: Vern announced that the Hill Country Chapter had received an award at the Annual State meeting. We were recognized for our outstanding 3-fold class brochure. Vern also said that he had gotten a Hummingbird Tool Kit CD by Mark Klym and would be glad to lend it to anyone interested in making copies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, December 12 at 1:30 PM at RNC**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary