

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
March 21, 2012**

Present: Anne Cassidy, Daneshu Clarke, Steve Clyburn, Eileen Gotke, Reidun Hilleman, Tom Hynes, Phyllis Muska, Paula Smith, Priscilla Stanley, Floyd Trefny

Absent: Sally Garrett

Other Directors: Michelle Haggerty, Chapter Advisor

Also Attending: Carl Luckenbach (for Sally Garrett)

President Priscilla Stanley called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for February 2012 Meeting: Tom Hynes made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Reidun Hilleman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny stated that the check from 7/26/11 which had not previously cleared the account, cleared this month. A check from 8/16/11 was returned, voided. A couple of donations from members were noted. Paula Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Daneshu Clarke seconded and the motion carried. The Budget Report presented by Floyd, shows that we are ahead of budget year to date.

Update on Dragonfly-Natural License Plate: Prior to the board meeting Priscilla Stanley had sent each board member some information on the Master Gardeners' license plate. They have raised around \$41,000 since they began selling these conservation plates in 2004. While we could raise some money selling Texas Master Naturalist license plates, the money has to be spent within 2 years.

Steve Clyburn commented that there are already a number of license plates that support other programs. It was proposed that a survey be conducted of other TMN chapters to find out what the interest would be for this project. Michelle said she would do this by sending a survey through listserv.

Hill Country Alliance Invitation: Tom Hynes stated that Hill Country Chapter had received an invitation from Hill Country Alliance to be a sponsor at the Rainwater Revival to be held at Cibolo Nature Center on October 27. Christy Muse, Director of HCA, is requesting volunteers for the event as well as sponsorships. The chapter will help, but will not be able to provide a sponsorship. Daneshu and Reidun will attend an April meeting to find out what is required of volunteers. Volunteer hours can be reported under "short term projects". The program could also be Advanced Training.

Mentors for New Class – COH: Tom Hynes presented some suggested additions to the Chapter Operating Handbook regarding mentors for new class members. Since notice has already been sent to the membership regarding changes to the COH and has been approved by the Board, additional changes can not be considered at this time. Reidun made a motion to table the mentor changes until August. Daneshu seconded the motion. Discussion: In August, we can include other changes to the COH which may need to be made and have everything finalized before the new class ends. The motion was approved.

Chapter Operating Handbook: Tom Hynes noted that there is no explanation of how the chapter's advisors are chosen. Additional recommendations for content change will be held until the fall. Typo changes noted will be sent by Tom Hynes to Priscilla for the final document. Floyd Trefny made a motion to approve the Chapter Operating Handbook as it was presented by email to the membership. Eileen Gotke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The New Class Brochure was acknowledged by the board as one of the best ever.

Sales Tax Permit: The application for a sales tax permit for the Hill County Chapter has been obtained by Paula Smith. This will be filled out, signed by all officers and mailed.

Paula Smith announced the Chapter now has a **FaceBook page**. Look for it under Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter. There will be a "like" button for it on the website. Lisa Williams will maintain the page and Eileen Gotke will assist. Michelle Haggerty commented that in order for the FaceBook page to be effective, there should be a new question or picture at least once a week.

Chapter Slogan: Paula Smith proposed that the Hill Country Chapter have a slogan or tag line. She is suggesting that we have a contest among chapter members. Floyd Trefny suggested that Paula put together a plan and present it at the April board meeting. Paula agreed to do this.

Officers and Directors

Tom Hynes: Tom has documents, passed along from Cathy Downs, with information on mentoring new classes members in previous years. Everyone felt that these would be best keep with the new class guidelines and passed along to the New Class Director.

The chapter picnic will be June 23 at Muleshoe Ranch. The time is 9:00 AM – Afternoon. Activities include a trail walk, presentations by Bill Csanyi (Mountain Man), Betty Barth (stories) and John Karger (birds).

A field trip to Canyon Lake Gorge is being planned for April or May. Cathy Downs will lead.

Two additional speakers have been added to the roster for chapter meetings: Scott Richardson from the South Llano Watershed Alliance, will be featured at the July meeting; in November, Rolf Nussbaumer, naturalist and award-winning photographer, will be the featured speaker.

Phyllis Muska: Robert Edmonson (Texas Forest Service) is organizing the Landowner's Expo for Kerr and Bandera Counties to be held May 5 at the Cailloux Theater in Kerrville. One of the presentations will be on landowner ethics.

Eileen Gotke: Reported 74 in attendance at the February Chapter meeting. 11 members will receive pins at the March meeting.

Bob Wiedenfeld from the class of 2011 submitted a "missed-class makeup form" for a class that he missed during the regular session. All was deemed to be in order. Bob has officially completed his classroom work.

Eileen stated that the liability form which is signed by an applicant for the new class, must be kept on file indefinitely.

Daneshu Clarke: A detailed schedule for the class of 2012 speakers has been emailed to all of the board. All speakers and field trips are set. The new class members are encouraged to attend all 4 scheduled field trips, but are required to attend at least 3 of the 4.

The Bamberger Ranch field trip will cost \$15 each for 35 students. The limit is 40 participants. Anyone attending over the 35 will be expected to pay their own way. No lunch is provided. 35 students at \$15 apiece is \$525. Daneshu noted that the budgeted amount is only \$450. Paula Smith made a motion to amend the budget to cover all of the Bamberger expenses. Daneshu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Daneshu commented that the printed newsletters in black and white which have been mailed to some of the members for distribution in their areas are not as eye-catching as they could be if they were in color. Several other board members concurred. The newsletter can be posted on FaceBook where people can get the full effect of the color publication. A suggestion was made to distribute a bookmark instead which directs people to the website. Paula will talk further with Kristie Denbow about this possibility.

Floyd suggested that photos of the new class be posted in the 'members only' section of the website.

Reidun Hilleman: Kara Campbell, is doing a research project in Fair Oaks Ranch surveying and tagging deer. She is looking for volunteers to assist. If anyone is interested in this project, hours may be reported under 'short-term wildlife project'.

Rufus Stevens is currently trapping cowbirds on the Kronkosky property (in Kendall and Bandera Counties). He would like to train others to take on this project. They would need to be certified. This is a new project and would need a new project coordinator.

Floyd Trefny: Will send copies by email of the final 2012 budget to all board members. This will include an adjustment to the amount allotted for the Bamberger Ranch field trip.

Steve Clyburn: Announced that 45 AT codes have been assigned year to date. For the 'Wings Over The Hills' event, one AT code can be used for the whole function.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 16 at 1:30 PM at RNC.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary