

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter  
Board Meeting  
April 18, 2012**

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

**Absent:** Steve Clyburn, Michelle Haggerty

President Priscilla Stanley called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

**Acceptance of Minutes for March 2012 Meeting:** Tom Hynes made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Paula Smith. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. Anne Cassidy made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Sally Garrett. Motions carried. The report summary will be sent to Dean Schmelling to post on the web site. Floyd stated that he has also sent missing Treasurer's Reports from 2009 and 2010 to Dean for posting.

The Budget Report presented by Floyd, indicates that we have \$115 more in expenses than income for March. However, we are approximately \$1000 under budget for the first quarter of 2011.

**Update on Sales Tax Permit:** The Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists now has a sales tax permit thanks to Paula Smith. One copy will be kept with the Treasurer's files and another copy will be included in the archives.

**Update on Dragonfly-Naturalist License Plate:** The survey sent to other Texas Master Naturalist chapters will be conducted through SurveyMonkey. Michelle will get suggestions from other chapters regarding the license plate. There is an \$8000 fee to apply.

Floyd proposed that TMN always be spelled out.

**Chapter Slogan or Tagline:** Paula Smith asked that another board member take on the planning of this project. Sally Garrett volunteered to work with Paula to help plan an approach. They will ask Merrily LaBarthe to help also.

**HCMN 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Several suggestions were made to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year:

- Acknowledge 10<sup>th</sup> year at the annual picnic on June 23.
- Recognize members from the first class (2002). Paula will ask them to submit a couple lines about what the class meant to them. Also mention members of this class who have passed away. Priscilla will send a list to Paula.
- Poster presentation
- Special cake

Paula suggested a subcommittee to help plan the celebration.

### **Officers and Directors Reports**

**Tom Hynes:** There is no further information on the field trips planned for the general membership at this time.

Four board members attended the Hill Country Alliance Rainwater Revival meeting. Tom offered volunteers from HCMN to help wherever needed. Perhaps some of the members of our chapter who have had experience with rainwater systems would be willing to sit on a panel. There is also need for someone to be the volunteer coordinator.

The last opening for a chapter meeting speaker has been filled. On October 22, Cynthia Burgin will talk about unlawful activities of landowners – what you should or should not have in your possession.

Next month, May 21, Bill Lindemann will give a presentation on dragonflies.

**Eileen Gotke:** Reported 75 in attendance at the March Chapter meeting. 20 members will receive pins at the April meeting. Priscilla and Phyllis will help Eileen hand out the pins.

Currently Eileen has received 5 applications for the new class.

Randy Ersch is a recent transfer from the Alpine Chapter to the Hill Country Chapter. Randy lives in Fredericksburg and will be introduced at the next chapter meeting. He will also be invited to sit in on classes in the fall as the ecology of the hill country is different. Ann Dietert is a recent transfer from the Alamo Chapter. Both new members will be acknowledged in the newsletter.

**Daneshu Clarke:** There are 33 speakers scheduled for the new class. If all are given a \$50 honorarium, the amount will be \$1650. Subtracting the Master Naturalists who will be speaking, there are 22 speakers which would reduce the amount spent on honorariums to \$1100. However, anyone from an affiliated agency (government or Master Naturalists) would not receive an honorarium. The New Class Committee recommends increasing the stipend/honorarium to \$75. Floyd pointed out that the committee could spend their speaker budget up to \$700 however they wished. So if they wish, they may increase the honorarium this year as long as they stay within budget. Other speakers who do not receive honorariums, will receive a gift. In this category, new speakers will receive a copy of Jim Stanley's book, Hill Country Landowner's Guide. Speakers who are not new will receive a book, title to be decided, but not Aldo Leopold's book

The New Class Committee also recommends that the chapter purchase a laptop computer for meetings and classes. They feel that this is an essential piece of equipment. Some speakers bring their own, but not all. It is not wise to have speakers' information on someone's personal computer. Floyd thought that one person in the chapter needed to be responsible for assuring updates, maintenance and replacements. Phyllis agreed to speak with John Huecksteadt and ask him for recommendations.

**Sally Garrett:** Said that the New Class Committee will make a poster with pictures of the new class members.

**Paula Smith:** Paula stated that there has been a lot of enthusiasm about distributing the new class brochures. 300 were ordered initially and 100 additional brochures have been ordered.

Paula has discussed with Kristie Denbow the possibility of printing some type of "rack card" in color which would direct people to the monthly newsletter online. This would be instead of printing the black and white version of the newsletter distributed each month.

**Anne Cassidy:** Anne reported that Jan Grimes, class of 2011, has expressed an interest in being the project coordinator of the Bandera County Library Native Garden project. This volunteer project has been on hold for the last year due to the drought. Reidun Hilleman will contact Jan to advise her of the coordinator duties.

**Reidun Hilleman:** Stated that she has heard nothing further from Rufus Stephens regarding the training for trapping cowbirds.

**Priscilla Stanley:** Reported that the Chapter Operating Handbook has been put on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Cassidy  
Secretary