

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter  
Board Meeting  
September 19, 2012**

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

**Absent:** Michelle Haggerty, Paula Smith

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. The summary report for August shows increased activity in the TMN holding account. The August balance was \$3,015.00 for this account. Floyd notified the board that he had been asked by Michelle Haggerty to fill out an application for a Texas Identification Number (TIN). This number is used when state funds are used to pay Texas Parks and Wildlife employees' registration fees for the annual State Master Naturalist Meeting. All funds received from the state for this purpose will be put in the holding account for Michelle's use.

The activity in our Chapter's account was due to new class tuition, purchasing merchandise for promotional sales, and expenses for the New Class. The account balance was reported as \$13,606.97.

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

The August Budget Report presented by Floyd shows that expenses are running under budget and income is over budget by \$95.00. Year-to-date comparisons from the beginning of the year through August 31 show an actual income of \$10,346 against forecast of \$10,441. Year-to-date expenses are \$7,165 actually spent against projected expenses of \$7,807. There is more activity than last year because more money is coming into the chapter.

**Update on Holiday Party:** Tom Hynes reported on the Holiday Party plans to date. Tom is acting as chairman as many were interested in helping but not in chairing the committee. There are 5 committee members. Daneshu Clarke also volunteered to help. Reidun Hilleman volunteered to prepare a flyer for the party. Tom will make an announcement about the party at the upcoming chapter meeting, Monday, September 24. A "save the date" announcement will also be sent out. Tom asked for ideas for entertainment. Do we want music during the meal and some other type of entertainment? There are also self-guided walking tours and hiking trails at the venue (Camp C.A.M.P)

**Fundraiser, Down by the Riverside Native Plant Sale & Nature Festival:** Priscilla reported that the nurseries have been contacted. More volunteers are needed to help at RNC the day of the event.

**Grant Request Policy Review:** Priscilla stated that the form used to apply for project grants from the Chapter has been misplaced. So a new document needs to be created. Priscilla had emailed a draft document to all the board members and asked for input. Tom suggested including the final document in the Chapter Operating Handbook. Anne suggested deleting the words "over \$100" in the introductory sentence. Floyd suggested placing the mission statement on the form and asking the requestor to state how the project supports the mission of the Hill Country Master Naturalists. Phyllis Muska suggested posting the final version on the website under documents. Priscilla will send the revised form to Dean Schmelling.

**Donation to Chris Northcliffe Memorial Bench:** Eileen Gotke proposed a small donation from the Chapter toward the memorial bench in honor of Chris Northcliffe, a fellow Master Naturalist from College Station, who lost his life in a tragic shooting in August. Tom Hynes made a motion to donate \$50 from the Chapter. Daneshu Clarke seconded the motion. The motion carried. Floyd will send a check and note to the Brazos Valley Chapter. Sally Garrett suggested that Lenore Langsdorf be notified so that a notice could be put in the newsletter.

**Officers and Directors Reports**

**Eileen Gotke:** 15 Chapter members are receiving awards at the chapter meeting on Monday, September 24. This includes awards earned in July and August. Kristi Denbow will receive recognition for having completed 5000 hours! She is the 7<sup>th</sup> Hill Country Master Naturalist to achieve this milestone. Michelle Haggerty will post a notice on the TMN listserv.

**Daneshu Clarke:** Daneshu reported that the classes are going well and the class has been on 2 field trips. There has been good response to the speakers and to the field trips. There have been a number of new class members who were quite concerned about the many errors in the curriculum. They want to help edit the entire notebook. Several board members acknowledged that the errors have been an issue with each class, although trying to edit the curriculum could be problematic. Daneshu offered to talk to Michelle Haggerty to see if correcting the errors is a possibility.

**Tom Hynes:** Tom noted that the publicity for the upcoming chapter meeting ran 3 weeks in advance of the meeting. The Fredericksburg paper did agree to rerun the information the week before the meeting.

**Reidun Hilleman:** Tim Lewis has requested a new project code for Town Creek cleanup that he proposes to organize and do 3 times a year. The consensus of the board was to include this project under the UGRA project instead of assigning a separate number. New member Hunter Scott, who is involved in the “dark skies” project, requested that he be able to count the work he does with Bill Wren at McDonald Observatory as volunteer hours. The board agreed that this could be counted since it is within the state of Texas.

**Steve Clyburn:** There are 145 AT codes which have assigned to date. A mentor has asked about receiving Advanced Training credit for attendance at the training classes. The board agreed that the classroom sessions are basic training and therefore AT does not apply. This has always been the policy.

**Phyllis Muska:** Phyllis has been working on the nominations to fill the officer positions on the board. She stated that Susan Longacre and Betty Clyburn have been helping.

**Sally Garrett:** Sally commented on how smoothly the classrooms sessions were going. However, she expressed disappointment in the number of empty chairs in the room. She felt the new class committee could be more open to increasing attendance.

**Anne Cassidy:** Anne announced that she will be traveling next month at the time of the board meeting. Sandy Leyendecker has graciously agreed to sit in as secretary. Anne asked Priscilla to send Sandy an agenda before the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, October 17 at 2:00 PM at RNC. Please note time difference!!**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Cassidy  
Secretary