

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter  
Riverside Nature Center  
February 22, 2016

Present: Brenda Fest, Kathy Ward, Floyd Trefny, Rheda Boardman, Bridget Langdale, Lisa Flanagan,  
Claire Mitchell, Diane Armbrust, Liz Ross, Vern Crawford, Sandy Leyendecker, Pamela Lienhard  
Absent: Diane McMahon, Michele Haggerty  
Quorum Met: 83% present

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 1335.  
Welcome and Review Agenda

#### Strategic Initiatives

- VMS hours reporting –Sandy Leyendecker  
For January 133 members reported with 2600 volunteer hours and 400 advanced training hours.  
It went well. To approve hours submitted by members five VMS administrators have divided the member list. Errors are corrected by the administrators or members are notified to correct their errors.  
In 2015, 198 members reported volunteer hours and advanced training hours.
- Kerr County Pollinator Project – Pamela Lienhard  
Background information was provided by Pamela Lienhard on the IH-35 Pollinator Corridor.  
Involved in the project are the National Wildlife Federation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, TXDOT, and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.  
Pamela and Brenda Fest met with Kerr County Commissioners Court. A resolution for a pollinator garden at the court house was submitted to the commissioners court on Feb. 8, 2016. The resolution was passed.  
Article is in the Kerrville Daily Times Newspaper Feb. 22, 2016.  
Emails become public records.

#### Information on the Kerr County Court House Pollinator Garden:

1. March 14, 2016 next meeting. Meeting starts at 9a.
  2. Applied for \$400 grant from Bring Back the Monarchs
  3. Cathy Downs has volunteered some milkweed.
  4. Need volunteers to assist with the garden plans.
  5. Will address the possible deer problem.
  6. Medina Nursery has been contacted.
- Blooms and Barrels Spring Plant Sale – Bridget Langdale and Claire Mitchell  
April 9 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville  
Hill Country Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale  
Hill Country Chapter will have a Public Relations table.  
Application has been sent.
  - Wings Over the Hills- Claire Mitchell  
April 29-May 1, 2016- Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, Fredricksburg  
Hill Country Chapter will have a Public Relations table.
  - Bandera Natural History Museum Landscaping – Brenda Fest  
Hill Country Chapter has been asked to work with the landscaping company in the use of native plants.  
Meeting has been scheduled with museum board member Genie Strickland on Feb. 23, 2016.

#### Resource Development

- 2015 End of the Year Survey - Kathy Ward  
The main complaint of the survey was the amount of time involved in the presentation of the awards. Lisa Flanagan will have a sign at the meeting tonight requesting members receiving an award sit towards the front. Floyd suggested appointing a committee to work on a solution for a more efficient method and not to use board time. Lisa Flannigan, Bridgett Langdale and Kathy Ward were appointed to the committee.  
  
Kathy suggested that a comment box with paper and pencils be available at the meeting. Comments will be monitored by Kathy.  
Brenda Fest made a motion that a comment box and supplies be available at meetings.  
Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion.  
Motioned carried.
- 2016 Class Update– Diana Armbrust  
The class committee met on February 15, 2016 at the Riverside Nature Center (refer to class committee minutes)  
All speaker dates are confirmed. Curriculum is not available for another month.  
New class will receive the new curriculum at no additional cost. All others will be required to pay.  
When the information on the curriculum is available it will be included in the newsletter.

#### Operational

- Determine dates and time for upcoming board meetings.  
It has been posted in the newsletter for the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 1:30pm.
- Approval of January 20, 2016 Minutes –Rheda Boardman  
Floyd Trefny made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections.  
Bridget Langdale seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried.
- Approval of Treasurer's Reports – Reports by Diane McMahon  
Lisa Flannigan made a motion to accept the January Treasurer's reports.  
Brenda Fest seconded the motion  
Motion carried.

- Vice President's Report on Programs – Floyd Trefny
  1. February 22 -"Texas Bluebirds"-Pauline Tom-Texas Bluebird Society  
Door prizes: two nest boxes donated by Texas Bluebird Society. Door prizes will be awarded at end of the meeting. Texas Bluebird Society will have a display and be selling nest boxes.
  2. March 28<sup>th</sup> -"Chronic Wasting Disease"- Mitch Lockwood & Bob Ditmar  
There is a need to be cautious of the issues and be aware of audience distraction due to the controversy of chronic wasting disease. We do not want the chapter to be involved in the controversy.  
Door Prize: Woodcrafting for Birds and Wildlife by Paul Batchelder, Sr.
  3. April 25<sup>th</sup> -"Monarch Butterfly Update"- Cathy Downs
  4. May 23<sup>rd</sup> -"Tawny (Raspberry) Crazy Ant"-Robert Puckett-Texas A&M AgriLife
  5. September 26<sup>th</sup>-"Viticulture" Andrew Labay- Texas A&M AgriLife

Floyd reminded the board that we had to approve the new class tuition before March 1, 2016.  
Lisa Flanagan made a motion to approve the new class tuition of \$185.  
Vern Crawford Seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.

#### Director's Reports

1. Membership – Lisa Flanagan  
Continue to receive more new class member prospects  
A signup sheet will be available at the meeting for Wings Over the Hills volunteers.  
Mentors must have face to face meeting with mentees prior to class reception.  
Class is limited to approximately 35.  
Clarification: New class members will be determined after all applications are received.
  2. Advanced Training – Liz Ross  
Issue with approving a presentation submitted by Rheda Boardman on a presentation titled "Tinctures & Tonics "at Cibolo Nature Center. The request for the AT was removed by Rheda Boardman.  
On a discussion on advanced training versus service time it was decided there are some advanced trainings that should be considered service time.
  3. Volunteer Projects – Claire Mitchell  
Claire is in the process of adding volunteer opportunities to the Hill Country Chapter calendar and sending email announcements to chapter members about these opportunities.
  4. Communications – Bridget Langdale  
Brochures: Recommended the new brochure include the current year.  
Kristie Denbow was recognized for her work on the brochure. Brochure will be submitted to the printer next week by Kristie Denbow.  
Brochures will be available March 28, 2016. Brochures will be distributed to locations by April 1, 2016.  
Ten publications and two radio stations have been added.  
Two public relations presentations have been done and receiving positive feedback.  
Bridget requested recommendations of new contacts be sent to her.  
To increase public awareness it was suggested award recipient picture be submitted to their local newspaper.  
Our goal should be to highlight members.
  5. New Class – Diana Armbrust  
Changes in how the class is presented at the reception will be discussed at the next class committee meeting.  
It will be a totally new approach.  
New class planning is progressing positively and on schedule.  
Lenore Langsdorf and the new class committee will prepare a hand-out of new class members (picture and bio) for the reception.  
Class Curriculum will be sent to the board by Brenda Fest by March 1. 2016.
- Riverside Nature Center (RNC) dues increase from \$150 to \$300 as requested by Becky Etzler  
Vern Crawford made a motion to increase RNC dues to \$300 a year.  
Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion  
Motion carried.

#### Meeting Decisions:

- Approved the January 9, 2016 minutes – Board Meeting
- Approved the January 25, 2016 minutes – Membership Meeting
- Approved the Treasurer's Reports
- Approved RNC dues increase
- Approved comment box at monthly meeting
- Approved the new class tuition of \$185
- Hill Country Chapter will staff information table at Blooms and Barrels Spring Plant Sale and Wings Over the Hills events
- Committee appointed to establish a new approach to award announcements at monthly meeting
- Any member wanting the new class curriculum will have to pay
- Board meetings will be held at 1:30p on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

#### Announcements

Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2016  
Board Meeting: Monday, March 28, 2016 1:30PM at Riverside Nature Center

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1555.