

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
April 23, 2008**

April 2008 Board Meeting

Present: Dan Behringer, Janet Csanyi, Warren Ferguson, John Huecksteadt, Lee Kneupper, Martha Miesch, Phyllis Muska, Annie Rendon, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley

Absent: Jerri Workman

The April meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by President Jim Stanley.

1. Spending Notification: President Jim Stanley suggested that members notify the Board if they anticipate expenses greater than \$100. We could try this notification policy to track expenses to stay within our budget. This is now necessary because unanticipated expenses have resulted in a deficit budget this year, relative to annual income, from substantially increased meeting room rental fees and website-related expenses. It was noted in the March Minutes that expenses would need to be monitored carefully this year.

Membership Director John Huecksteadt reported on expenses for the Class of 2008. Vice-President Warren Ferguson reported that we would continue taking our speakers to dinner before our Chapter meeting, with, as previously, only the speaker's meal paid for by the Chapter.

2. Board Member Duties: Jim Stanley asked each Board member to send him a description of what they actually do in their Board position, not just the formal job description in the Chapter Operating Handbook. It was thought that this could be useful to the Nominating Committee in seeking new Officers by being able to let candidates read the actual full responsibilities of the proposed position.

3. June Chapter Family Picnic: Jim Stanley suggested that the Board consider the Hill County Natural Area in Bandera (a TPWD facility of 5,500 acres) as a site for our June family picnic. Our member Leanne Beauxbeannes had volunteered there and is now a TPWD employee for education and volunteers at that location. She hoped that by holding our picnic there, some of our members might become volunteers there. Our Chapter already has an approved Volunteer Project at the Hill Country Natural Area from an earlier Project carried out there (**BD-04-A Misc. Short Term Projects for TPWD in the Hill Country State Natural Area**). New Class Representative Lee Kneupper suggested that we look into reserving the site with farmhouse and barn for our event. Jim and Priscilla Stanley will go the Hill Country Natural Area to assess the options for our June Chapter Family Picnic and report back.

Officer Reports:

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Martha Miesch reported that the April starting balance was \$5,962.11. The expenses included: two \$50 Tuition rebates to Class of 2007 members Jack and Karen Millikan and \$18.39 to Ginny de Wolf for the Park Butterfly Garden. The current balance is \$5,843.92. The Treasurer's Report is appended to the archival copy of the Minutes.

5. Vice-President Warren Ferguson reported that our May program would consist of Mike Kreuger, the TPWD District Manager, reporting on the deer management options available through TPWD and Tim Huffsteadler would report on what the City of Kerrville had chosen to do in Kerrville-Schreiner City Park.. The Kerrville City Council approved some deer management activity for the Park. New Class Representative Lee Kneupper expressed a potential concern about having this topic at our Chapter meeting, which is open to the public, before the deer management activity had been completed. He did not want to have our Chapter involved in any public controversy regarding deer management discussions in the Park. It was suggested that perhaps our members with experience with TPWD Youth Hunts could also present this attractive option at a Chapter meeting. Further discussion decided that this meeting should have only TPWD and City Park (former TPWD) speakers.

Our July program will be by the author of an article in the TPWD magazine on "Global Warming and Hill Country Wildlife".

6. Fundraising to Balance Our 2008 Chapter Budget: New Class Representative Lee Kneupper asked how we could raise the \$3,000 we need to balance the 2008 Chapter Budget. It was hoped that obtaining our 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization would promote private donations. Also we could consider implementing voluntary dues of \$10 to \$25/year, since many other organizations, including other TMN Chapters, have dues. A suggestion was made to solicit voluntary dues from our members after we had our non-profit status, so the donations would be tax deductible to the donor.

7. Class Planning Director: Annie Rendon reported that the New Class Planning Committee was making good progress.

8. Membership Director: John Huecksteadt reported that he had updated the dates in the 2008 New Class Application, cover letter and acceptance letter. He had changed the due date for the Application submission to July 17 to enable the applications to be reviewed at the July Board meeting in case we had more applications than usual. John asked how the status of the August meeting should be described in this application packet. Last year the August meeting was an Orientation for the Class of 2007, and introduction of the trainees to our Chapter members. It was not clear how this would be handled this year.

John reported that his Membership table at the Earth Day Celebration and Native Plant Sale at Riverside Nature Center had eight people sign-up for more information or LMAP visits. John indicated that the new membership brochure had been a joint effort with Director of Communications Janet Csanyi, Julie Gibson who did the layout and Vice-President Warren Ferguson who handled the color printing.

9. Advanced Training Director: Dan Behringer asked our Data Manager Lee Kneupper how the new AT codes were working in the database and with our members. Lee indicated that the codes were a big help for accurate data entry and that most members were using them. He is accepting data from folks who are not yet using the AT codes.

10. Volunteer Project Director: Absent due to family medical emergency.

Michelle Haggarty had asked for volunteers to work at the HEB Camp in Leakey this summer teaching children about nature. This camp is just outside our four county area. Our Chapter does however have a code for teaching school children about nature at the HEB Camp (**Volunteer Project CC-05-C Misc. Short Term Educational Events**).

11. Past-President: Phyllis Muska reported that Sharon McLaughlin is preparing a presentation for a butterfly garden around Comfort. Sharon wanted to know if she could count her preparation time and if so, how. The Board agreed that presentation preparation time is counted under the **Presentation Volunteer Project HC-01-C**

12. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Martha Miesch reported that the April starting balance was \$5,962.11. The expenses included: two \$50 Tuition rebates to Class of 2007 members Jack and Karen Millikan and \$18.39 to Ginny deWolfe for the Park Butterfly Garden(?.) The current balance is \$5,843.92. The Treasurer's Report is appended to the archival copy of the Minutes.

13. Chapter TMN T-shirts: Secretary Priscilla Stanley asked if the Chapter was still interested in getting more T-shirts embroidered with the TMN logo and our Chapter name as we had several years ago. They have not been available to our New Classes for two years, and they are great for public outdoor events when the formal dark-green TMN knit shirts might be too hot. The Board is interested in pricing information and options, so Priscilla will contact Gilbert-American Company of Rockwall, TX who made our previous shirts. Instead of ordering an assortment of sizes, it was suggested that we have members order shirts to avoid having shirts in unsalable sizes or colors.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Next Board meeting: Wednesday, May 14 at 1:30pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab (left side of the pavilion). Hill Country Chapter members and Advisors are always welcome to attend.

Please note our Board meeting is one week earlier than usual because our regular Chapter meeting date would have fallen on Memorial Day, which would be likely to reduce attendance. Thus, both the Board meeting and the Chapter meeting have been moved ahead by one week.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Stanley

Secretary

5/13/08