

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
October 17, 2007**

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEM STATUS:

June - Action Item C: Check into how to list our chapter meetings in the Kerrville Daily Times Club & Organization Meeting Calendar – **Donna Snow Robinson or Sharon Corley - Pending**

July - Action Item C. Communications Director Donna Robinson volunteered to edit volunteer project descriptions for use on our website. Please submit projects to her by the end of August. - **Donna Robinson In progress:** Donna has received 3 volunteer project descriptions so far.

July Action Item E. Provide information to Donna Robinson on the building of the accessible trail for our September newsletter – **John Huecksteadt - In progress**

October Action Item: Obtain information on ordering more Chapter T-shirts. – **Marilyn Murrmann**

OCTOBER 2007 Board Meeting

Present:

Dan Behringer, Cathy Downs, , John Huecksteadt, Marilyn Murrmann, Phyllis Muska, Donna Snow Robinson, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Jerri Workman

Absent: Betty Gardner, Bill Perkison

The October meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by President Phyllis Muska. The Board meeting was held 30 minutes later than usual to accommodate the members that attend the New Class training.

1. Slate of Officers for November Election: Jim Stanley reported for the Nominating Committee, which included himself, Myrna Langford and Virginia Sawin. The Committee approached a number of qualified members for President, and all declined for various reasons. Thus, the Committee proposed that Jim Stanley (Class of 2002) return as President. The other candidates included Warren Ferguson (Class of 2006) for Vice-President, Martha Miesch (Class of 2006) for Treasurer and Priscilla Stanley (Class of 2002) returning as Secretary. This slate of candidates will be sent to the membership to give them the required one month notice before the election of 2008 officers at the November 26th monthly meeting.

2. Chapter Operating Handbook: Phyllis Muska presented the revised Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) that had been completed by a Committee of volunteers, chaired by Past-President Sandy Pena, and including Cathy Downs, Betty Gardner, Phyllis Muska, Bill Perkison and Priscilla Stanley. Sandy Pena had obtained COHs from several other area chapters for review by the Committee. Phyllis had made the Committee's revisions to the document template provided by the TMN State Office. She had also gathered all the supporting documents into Appendices of the COH, including our Chapter policies, guidance documents from the TMN State Office, and information on the role of advisors provided by our previous TPWD advisor, Amy Sugeno. This document will be sent to the membership for review as well so that the draft COH can be voted on at our November 26th meeting.

3. September Chapter meeting approved as Advanced Training: The **September 24th** meeting was **"Monarchs: What's In a Garden"** by our member Kip Kiphart on the development of his butterfly habitat on his property. Membership Director John Huecksteadt moved that this program be approved as Advanced Training for members who attended. Advanced Training Director Dan Behringer seconded the motion, which carried.

4. Chapter Volunteer Project Entered in the State TMN Meeting Project Competition: John Huecksteadt and Mary Ellen Terrell created an attractive exhibit of photos and text describing our new

Chapter volunteer project of creating an ADA-accessible trail at the Fredericksburg Nature Center in Lady Bird Johnson Park going from the parking area to the new accessible bird blind, the butterfly habitat and the stream overlook. Cathy Downs took the display to the State TMN meeting in San Antonio. Cathy reviewed the other entries and felt that our content was competitive, but the popular vote seemed to be swayed by larger, more elaborate exhibits.

5. Our Chapter Fundraiser. This year, as in previous years, our Chapter worked with our partner, Riverside Nature Center (RNC) to provide a nature education event for the public called "Down By the Riverside Nature Festival and Native Plant Sale". Members of both organizations worked together planning and running the events. The Nature Festival included three presentations: 1. Susan Sander, the naturalist founder of Riverside Nature Center, giving a talk on "Native Trees in the RNC Arboretum", followed by a tree tour, 2. "Backyard Wildscapes" by Rufus Stephens, TPWD Wildlife Biologist and our former sponsor and 3. "Backyard Critters" by Conn Carson, a nature educator at the Mo Ranch in Hunt who along brought live critters. A series of nature-oriented children's activities ran from 9 am to 3 pm and were very well-attended.

The Native Plant Sale began on Friday evening for members and then continued on Saturday for the public from 8 am to 3 pm. We estimated an attendance of 446 people. Even though we purchased 30% more plants than previously, we sold down to a cost basis of about \$250. Each organization netted approximately \$1770 and we taught lots of attendees about native plants and nature topics. Chapter members worked 73 two-hour shifts to make this Nature Festival and Plant Sale possible, even though it was the same weekend as the TMN State meeting.

6. Chapter Holiday Party: This year's party will be on **Saturday, December 1st** at the Club House in Fredericksburg's Lady Bird Johnson Park. Tickets cost \$10/person. The cocktail party will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, as well as wine and beer for a \$2.50 donation. Reservations for members and spouses or partners should be made with our Treasurer Marilyn Murrmann. Checks can be given to Marilyn at the November Chapter meeting or mailed to her.

7. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marilyn Murrmann reported that we now have a balance of \$6,665.68. Expenses included two \$50 honoraria for retired speakers for our Class of 2007 training, two \$50 tuition rebates for two members of the Class of 2006 who achieved TMN certification, \$7 for stamps for the Treasurer and \$27 reimbursement for refreshments for the Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialist course our Chapter hosted earlier this year at the request of the Texas Forest Service. Income included a \$50 check for a speaker that was voided.

8. Chapter TMN T-shirts: Secretary Priscilla Stanley asked if we had any T-shirts left for our members, especially our Class of 2007, to purchase. Treasurer Marilyn Murrmann was able to go back through the receipts and found that in September 2005 we had ordered T-shirts embroidered with the TMN logo ("Texas Master Naturalist" and the dragonfly) above "Hill Country Chapter" from Gilbert-American Company in Rockwall, TX for \$15 each. Marilyn will look into the options for ordering more Hill Country Chapter TMN T-shirts.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 PM.

Next Board meeting: Monday, November 19th at 2:00 PM. The date for this meeting was moved ahead to avoid meeting the day before Thanksgiving. Hilling Country Chapter members and Advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla B. Stanley

Priscilla B. Stanley
Chapter Secretary